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Outside views are often of interest and this look at our Defence policy comes from the Lecturer in Politics at the University of St. Andrews.

The changing nature of Irish defence policy

Trevor C. Salmon*

IN the post-1945 period there has been little genuine debate on issues relating to Irish defence policy. Only problems associated with Northern Ireland, such as the non-use of force and the possible overflow of violence into the Republic, can be said to have been discussed seriously. Instead, emphasis has been placed upon 'neutrality' and those who have dared question this policy have met for 30 years with a blanket 'No Nato'.

Part of the trouble has been the lack of research on defence, foreign policy and international affairs, and of an independent centre for such studies in Ireland. Although these subjects are now at last beginning to find a place in Irish higher education, defence remains a neglected topic. Moreover, any discussion is orientated to the past, relating to the origins of the neutrality policy and its advantages for the country during 1939-45. There has been a failure to recognize the existence of a new generation, new circumstances and new issues.

The British factor and the Nato context

As well as being too scanty and too back-ward looking, the debate has been dominated by the British factor. Partition has been used as an argument for excluding any discussion of possible defence arrangements with the British in many areas. This position was reflected in the *aide-memoire* handed to the American Ambassador in Dublin on 8 February 1949, in response to an American inquiry concerning Irish attitudes to the proposed North Atlantic Treaty. It emphasized that 'six of (Ireland's) north-eastern counties are occupied by British forces against the will of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people' and that as a result 'any military alliance with, or commitment involving military action jointly with, the State that is responsible for the unnatural division of Ireland, which occupies a portion of our country with its armed forces, and which supports undemocratic institutions in the north-eastern corner of Ireland, would be entirely repugnant and unacceptable to the Irish people.'[1]

The debate has also been excessively focused on the question of a formal alliance with either Nato or some other similar organization. It is a major argument of this article that the issue is not 'Nato or neutrality' or even 'European Defence Community or neutrality', but rather that involvement and co-operation need not entail formal treaties, alliances or structures. The emphasis upon Nato has blinded many to the possibilities of a more informal link. Nato is a false issue, as is the notion of a re-vamped proposal for a European Defence Community. It might even be argued that 'neutrality' is a false issue as well in that it implies that the question is whether to join a formal organization or not, and fails to take account of the pressures leading to informal ad hoc co-operation. The Nato discussion also reflects the above-mentioned lack of research in Ireland on such matters, for there often appears to be no apparent recognition of the possibility of a qualified membership of Nato like that of France and Greece. The issue is seen in black and white terms largely because of the perceived links between Partition and Britain, and Britain and Nato. The discussion in this area is often emotive and appears to be dominated by vociferous, albeit unrepresentative, minority groups.

Finally, the emphasis on Northern Ireland and neutrality has precluded discussion and analysis of other critical issued in Irish defence policy since 1945. In particular, it has resulted in little attention being paid to:

(i) the role of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF);

(ii) the relationship between the role or roles of the PDF and its structure;

(iii) the level and type of capabilities required to fulfil those roles;

(iv) the possibility of there being an incompatibility in these roles with particular respect to:

  (a) internal security (aiding the civil power) and the requirements of external security, and

  (b) the relationship between defence and deterrence;

(v) most fundamentally, the nature of the threat or threats.

* The author is Lecturer in Politics at the University of St. Andrews having previously worked for five years at the National Institute of Higher Education in Limerick. This paper is reprinted with permission from the November, 1979 issue of **The World Today** journal of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London.

Although these topics have occasionally been discussed in the Irish Dail, there has been no concerted examination of them and once they have gone out of fashion they have been forgotten again. A typical example is the suggestion made in 1948, and again in 1952, that the army should adopt guerrilla tactics rather than rely upon heavy equipment and a continental type of structure.[2] Such ideas appear to have been dismissed rather than analysed, partly because they were seen as defeatist, i.e. acknowledging that occupation was likely in a conflict, but also because of the view expressed in 1952 by Oscar Traynor, Minister of Defence, that 'so long as the situation in the North is as it is, any military staff worth its salt in this country will have to rely on the orthodox method, although they may later have to resort to other methods.'[3]

THE WORLD TODAY

Another area which has received scant attention is that of Irish participation in UN peace-keeping - despite some of the incongruities that have arisen in this connexion. For example, at the beginning of this decade it was necessary to have some of the First-Line Reserve on full-time duty, and to have the *Forsa Cosanta Aitiuil* (FCA, a part-time volunteer force) doing weekend and other forms of part-time service, whilst several hundred of the regular army were serving abroad. The force of the problem, however, only became apparent after the Dublin and Monaghan bombings in May 1974 when the Government sought 'temporary release of the Irish contingent' serving with the United Nations Expeditionary Force in the Middle East (UNEF) - an expediency which may become necessary again.

Outdated approach

The arguments against alliance with the British and hence with Nato have been outdated for years. Sean Lemass, for example, acknowledged as far back as 1962 that 'it is not in the national interest to represent that (Article IV of the North Atlantic Treaty which refers to threats to territorial integrity) as implying an undertaking to preserve the Partition situation'. He also said: 'We think the existence of Nato is necessary for the preservation of peace and for the defence of the countries of Western Europe, including this country. Although we are not members of Nato, we are in full agreement with its aims.'[4]

Furthermore, it can now be argued that Ireland is more closely linked to Britain through common membership of the European Community that it need every have been through membership of Nato - especially given the possibility of qualified membership. Even apart from the formal and legal arrangements of the EEC context, Ireland is clearly co-operating with Britain on an extensive scale without formal treaties, organizations or structures. There is, for example, the co-operation on the Northern Ireland issue, perhaps more extensive than is fully apparent. In addition, Irish officers regularly attend courses in Britain and other Nato countries, but rarely elsewhere. There appears to be also some sort of co-operation relating to the monitoring of nuclear attacks and fallout possibilities and measurements. Moreover, between the two world wars the Irish Cabinet agreed that the Irish army should be 'so organized, trained and equipped as to render it capable, should the necessity arise, of full and complete co-ordination with the forces of the British Government in the defence of the Saorstat territory whether against actual hostilities or against violation of neutrality on the part of a common enemy.'[5] While the full extent of current co-operation can only be a matter of speculation, it is worth emphasizing that it does not require a formal treaty or arrangement.

Even more important than the need to free discussion of the British connexion from past constraints is the need for a reappraisal of the Irish position in Europe, mainly in the European Community context. Whilst emphasis upon 'neutrality' and 'non-aligment' may have served in the past (even though there was no apparent recognition that these two terms did not quite mean the same thing), such an emphasis is no longer sufficient in the new circumstances of Irish accession to the Community in 1973. A few people have recognized this, and they are by no means all critics from the Left. In the spring of 1967, Liam Cosgrave stated that 'while it is true that the Rome Treaty makes no specific reference to defence, I think it would be less than frank if we imagined that defence was not at the forefront of the thinking behind the drafting of the Rome Treaty. While in recent times emphasis has been laid on the economic and social aspects of the (Rome) Treaty, there are other implications of a political character.'[6] Later in the same year he was even more explicit; 'there is no use saying that EEC membership does not involve any military commitment.'[7]

It is possible that these statements represent a more accurate interpretation of the implications of membership than the formal pronouncements of Irith Ministers, both then and more recently, that 'any arrangements for defence of the Community would have to result from further agreements ... to be negotiated by the members of the expanded Community.'[8] Recent reports on European Union by the Commission and M. Leo Tindemans have stressed that defence cannot be set aside from other developments. Tindemans proposed 'regularly to hold exchanges of views on our specific problems in defence matters and on European aspects of multilateral negotiations on security.'[9] Moreover, it is the Irish perception that steps in this direction have already taken place. This has been

acknowledged in the Irish Government's reports on 'Developments in the European Communities'. The Eleventh Report, issued by a Fianna Fail Government in January 1978, made the point that at the post-Helsinki Belgrade meeting the Nine had maintained close co-operation and co-ordination both during the review exercises and in the promotion of an extensive range of joint proposals aimed at facilitating and improving implementation of the Final Act.[10]

There have been indications that Ireland would like to step back a little from this EEC co-operation at the Madrid review conference in 1980. Thus the Minister of Foreign Affairs said during a visit to Yugoslavia that Ireland looked forward to 'further co-operation and consultation' with the neutral and non-aligned countries 'before the next CSCE meeting in Madrid',[11] although Ireland was not represented at the Havana conference in September this year. But a radical change of emphasis will not be easy. Ireland is committed to the Community political co-operation framework, and it will be extremely difficult to deviate too much from the policy implied in that without damaging other Irish interests in the EEC. Ireland must be seen to be a solid member of the Community if it expects to be the beneficiary of a substantial transfer of resources within it. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said in 1978: 'Ireland will not be a member of Nato. However, if it ever gets to the point, some time in the future, that the EEC was being attacked, then we, as members of the Community, could not negate the fact. As members of the EEC, we would have to play our role and carry out our obligations and responsibility'.[12] It can be argued that it is not just a question of future possibility but rather of present commitment, again not from any formal legal obligation but because of the informal, political realities of the situation. Strangely, there is no evidence of these realities impinging on the thinking or organization of the army.

Another item relating to defence/security already on the European agenda is that of the arms industry and arms production. Tindemans singled this out as an area in which action could be taken immediately and the European Parliament, in June 1978, voted in favour of the establishment of an EEC policy on arms production as part of an overall strategy to develop European industry. The reaction of Irish members of that Parliament illustrated the muddled thinking in Ireland on these issues. Fianna Fail abstained, arguing that the motion had no relevance to Ireland, while Fine Gael supported it on the grounds that such a policy would provide more jobs and help the Irish balance of payments. Liam Kavanagh of Labour voted against because of suspicions of Ireland being drawn into a policy leading into Nato. Yet, the motion showed that defence concerns cannot be separated from the operation of the European Community.

A similar problem has arisen for Ireland with respect to 'fishery protection', where it has been agreed that the EEC will pay up to 46 million EUAs (£31m.) of the cost of Ireland bringing into service appropriate inspection and surveillance measures for fishery protection in Irish fishing waters in the period 1977-82.[13] Though the initiative for this came from respective Irish governments, the whole question of security, sovereignty and surveillance with regard to offshore resources has received no real attention in Ireland. Now that offshore waters have been invested with 'territoriality', the national security of the state presumably encompasses what were formerly regarded as the high seas. If the EEC is to provide cash for fishery protection and search for oil and gas off the Irish coast, the moment may well arise when Ireland will be expected to offer something in return. Although a fully developed system might require legal arrangements, it is clear that much could be done in this direction without any formal treaties or structures.

Current trends are thus inevitably putting Ireland in a position whereby it is already co-operating de facto in various aspects of defence and security with its European neighbours. The enlargement of the Community may well accentuate these pressures and developments. All the applicants are involved militarily in the defence by Western Europe and Spain may soon formalize its contribution by also joining Nato. These trends are going to make the Irish 'free rider' position increasingly more difficult to sustain for political reasons, whilst the development of a Community spirit will invalidate it also morally. Moreover, it may well be that if Ireland were to seek to emphasize the separation it perceives between the economic and political areas of the Community, it would lose out financially in any case. It should be noted, however, that Irish political leaders have repeatedly stressed their belief in the political aims and objectives of the Community.

Questioning the assumptions

Is there any alternative for the Irish? The alternatives normally proposed - i.e. various forms of self-defending 'neutrality' - seem to depend upon the following arguments:

(i) that the best military contribution the Irish can make to their own defence and to the defence of Europe is to defend their island against a conventional attack, and that 'Nobody could do it better';

(ii) that the Irish example would show other European neutrals that membership of the EEC need not involve a military commitment;

(iii) that it convinces *(a)* the USSR and *(b)* the Third World that the EEC is not a military alliance;

(iv) that it will allow Ireland to play a 'special' role in the world.

Against these arguments, the first question to ask is whether Ireland is capable of effectively defending itself. All the European 'neutrals' - Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland - seem to make a bigger defence effort than Ireland,[14] a tendency which is especially pronounced given their lack of an 'internal security' problem. The figures for defence spending suggest that Ireland is implicitly relying on Britain and Nato. There is still an echo of the 1925 Cabinet Minute in Irish thinking. Moreover, it must be questioned whether Ireland is really contributing to the defence of Europe at present.

Nor can the 'example' argument be sustained. Those countries that are seeking membership in the current enlargement negotiations are all more 'committed' to the Western alliance than Ireland. Sweden and Switzerland are not likely to be enticed by the Irish example, while Finland and Austria are, in any case, not completely free agents. The effect on the Soviet Union and Third World countries is also probably illusory.

The main problem with the proposed alternatives is that they under-estimate the strength of current trends and of the level of Irish commitment so far. They tend to assume that lack of 'formal', 'contractual' obligations means that Ireland has a free choice, whereas since 1973 this is no longer so. 'Neutrality' in the Community context is not really feasible, whilst the cost of a genuine 'go-it-alone' policy would appear to be prohibitive, and certainly in excess of the previous level of resource allocation that successive Irish governments and the people appear to have been willing to make.

The developments discussed above all point to the need for a thorough-going re-examination of the roles and structure of the PDF which have simply been reiterated rather than examined. These roles are normally understood as: (i) defence against external aggression; (ii) aid to the civil power - meaning in practice to assist, when requested, the Garda Siochana who have the primary responsibility for the maintenance or restoration of the public peace and for internal security; (iii) aid to Civil Defence; (iv) peace-keeping missions on behalf of the United Nations; (v) fishery protection; and (vi) such other duties as may be assigned to them, e.g. assistance on the occasion of industrial disputes etc.

Although these are perfectly legitimate, indeed ordinary, roles for a defence force, one may question whether a structure orientated towards (i) is really capable of dealing adequately with (ii) or (iv). One can even ask whether (i) is straightforward. For example, should 'defence' or 'deterrence' be given more weight? It is quite possible that the most appropriate structure for defence is not appropriate for deterrence. Should Ireland focus on an explicitly deterrent, guerrilla-type strategy, given the apparently unequal struggle in terms of conventional defence?

Has enough account been taken of the UN peace-keeping role? It is strange, particularly given the relative continuity of such service - since 1960 in respect of peace-keeping and 1958 in respect of observing some 17,000 soldiers have been supplied - that no separate unit of the PDF has been established for such purposes or trained for the special, and abnormal, requirements of the peace-keeping role. Recruitment for the Lebanon, for example, was based on volunteers drawn from Commands throughout the state. Similarly, little attention has been given in the past to the Naval Service, which has suffered for decades from a lack of sufficient resource allocation and manpower. Despite the fact that the Naval Service has almost doubled in size since 1965, it is still woefully inadequate for the task it faces. In March 1977 the then Minister of Defence, Mr. Flanagan, estimated that Ireland would need 18 extra ships at a cost of £90m. if it had to patrol the 200-mile EEC economic zone.[15]

Defining the threat

The structure and equipment of an army ought presumably to be related also to the nature of the actual threats which it faces, either internally or externally. What threats to Ireland exist, or are likely to arise in the foreseeable future?

First, external aggression appears to be unlikely as regards a foreign power acting against Ireland without having attacked other European countries first. Ireland is only likely to be peripherally involved in any general war, so that any attack would probably be almost incidental to the main action. In these circumstances, there is again much to be said for an explicitly deterrent posture as against the more traditional defence posture. It would seem unlikely that Ireland could for long resist any invasion, but it might well be able to go on fighting after invasion, and thereby increase the costs of occupation (or attempted occupation) to an unacceptably high level for an aggressor. But perhaps not too much emphasis should be put on this possibility, as there appears little current prospect of such an attack on Ireland.

Second, also 'external' but more likely, is the threat of northern violence building up to full civil war in the 32 counties, or of northern Protestant majority forays across the border. Moreover, considering that between 1973 and 1976 there were some 304 minor border incursions by the British Army into the Republic, it is not inconceivable that in different circumstances British operations could easily be regarded as aggression. Indeed, Irish tempers have been frayed on occasion. For example, in the spring of 1971, the Opposition spokesman on Foreign Affairs, Richie Ryan, was moved to say of the British Navy searching Irish vessels: 'If diplomatic manoeuvres are not going to

make the British behave in a civilized manner towards us, then we shall have to take defensive measures to protect Irish vessels from the interventions of which we complain.'[16] At all events, however the 'external threat' is described, doubts have been publicly expressed about the PDF's capability to contain it.

Third, there is the threat to the Catholic minority in Ulster and the question of whether a Southern government can act in any meaningful way as its protector and guarantor. At one moment, in August 1969, it did appear as if the Irish Army might actually seek to intervene. Certainly the Opposition in the Republic and many Protestants in the North thought that the Irish Government was hinting - to say the least - at armed intervention. Alarmist headlines in the Irish press were countered by the official explanation - after the event - that the reported movement of Irish Army vehicles had been to establish army field hospitals on the Irish side of the border and to enable them to participate in the joint Irish-British peace-keeping force that the Government was to porpose formally a couple of days later. To that end the Dublin Government also authorized the mobilization of the First-Line Reserve. The Irish Prime Minister, Jack Lynch, subsequently made it clear that his Government had no intention of mounting an armed invasion of the Six Counties, and that the use of force could not advance the long-term aim of a united Ireland by peaceful means.[17] Whatever may be the truth about the desire to intervene, various spokesmen have emphasized the difficulties. In the Dail in 1972 Garret FitzGerald acknowledged that 'our army... could not reach Belfast',[18] while two years later Conor Cruise O'Brien caused an outcry when he said that the Irish Army did not possess the capacity to control events in the North and that it could only hope to hold one border town, such as Newry, even in a civil war.[19] Thus, there seems to be some sort of political consensus that the Army is not really capable of meeting the contingencies which might arise as a result of the northern crisis.

Fourth, internal security threats, which incidentally also illustrate the difficulties in separating the political and military, are perhaps the most serious of all. The fundamental question is how to defend the democratic state from internal subversion. It is as well to remember that, according to a decision of the Irish Parliament shortly after the murder of the British Ambassador in July 1976, 'arising out of the armed conflict now taking place in Northern Ireland, a national emergency exists affecting the vital interests of the state.'[20] The change of government in June 1977 did not lead to a rescinding of this 'state of emergency'. Indeed, given the murder of Lord Mountbatten last summer, it is clear that a severe threat to the vital interests of the Irish state still exists.

Finally, there are threats to offshore resources, fishery stocks, oil-rigs etc.

It is the argument of this paper that Irish policy-makers must take a new look at defence in the light of these realities and at their traditional concepts of 'threats to the state' and 'neutrality'. Recent developments put the onus on them to develop a new orientation in order to meet the changed nature of the problems. Ireland is already co-operating with its neighbours and will be co-operating increasingly, albeit in a non-legalistic and non-formalistic manner, in areas of security and in ways which 30 years ago would have been impossible to contemplate. As Irish interests in the world - and to some extent at home - change, so, too, must Irish defence policy.

[1] *Texts concerning Ireland's position in relation to the North Atlantic Treaty* (Dublin: Stationery Office) (Prl. 9934), p. 5.
[2] See James Dillon in *Dail Debates*, Vol. 132: column 488.
[3] *ibid.*, 132 : 982.
[4] *ibid.*, 193 : 4 ff.
[5] Patrick Keatinge, *A Place Among Nations: Issues in Irish Foreign Policy*, IPA 1978, pp. 84 ff. quotes (C2/225) the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 13 November 1925.
[6] *Dail Debates*, 228 : 799 ff.
[7] *ibid.*, 230 : 826 ff.
[8] Foreign Affairs Minister Hillery, *ibid.*, 247 : 2068 ff.
[9] *Bulletin of the European Communities*, Supplement 1/76, pp. 15, 17-18.
[10] *Developments in the European Communities*, Eleventh Report, January 1978, Dublin Stationery Office (Prl. 6840), p. 11.
[11] See Michael O'Kennedy in the *Irish Times*, 14 April 1978.
[12] *ibid.*, 20 February 1978.
[13] Official Journal, No. L211/34, 1 August 1978, pp. 34-6 (78/640/EEC).
[14] *The Military Balance 1978-79* (London: IISS, 1978), p.88.
[15] *Irish Times*, 29 March 1977.
[16] *Dail Debates*, 252 : 1769 ff.
[17] *ibid.*, 241 : 1401 ff.
[18] *ibid.*, 258 : 994.
[19] *Irish Times*, 25 September 1974.
[20] *Dail Debates*, 292 : 3 ff.

Irish Studies in International Affairs

The Royal Irish Academy has launched a new journal under the auspices of its National Committee for the Study of International Affairs. The purpose of the journal is to promote the publication of scholarly research in this field. Costing £5.00 the first issue deals with such subjects as the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and New Directions in Irish Foreign Policy.

Terrorism and mental illness

One form of mental illness that seems most applicable to the terroristic character is paranoia. Paranoia can be described as an overwhelming sense of mission. The terrorist, especially the charismatic leader, often has the same dedication as that frequently found in hate groups no matter what the political philosophy. Most seriously, mentally-ill persons are not criminals nor are they able to command a following. Moreover, the paranoiac's personality does not disintegrate as do the personalities of most psychotics and, except for his exaggerated sense of mission, his personality remains fairly intact.

(Military Police - USA)

Capt. Maguire and another climber on the summit of the Matterhorn.

ALPINE ENDEAVOURS 1979

Capt. Richard Maguire, 3 Inf. Bn.

LAST year two army groups set out separately to climb in the Alps. Capt. Ted Russell led an Eastern Command group which planned to climb Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn but due to bad weather and other factors their attempts were unsuccessful. A Curragh Command team led by myself and including Lt. John Spierin, Depot S & T, Cpl. Len O'Rourke, 2 Garrison AOC and Pte. Dave Cunningham, 3 Inf. Bn. set out to climb Mont Blanc the highest mountain in Europe early in September. Three weeks later we returned home, the first army group to climb successfully Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn and three other peaks.

Planning for these ascents started in the Autumn of 1978. Once our objectives were decided, the various maps and guidebooks were acquired and routes selected and studied. A physical training programme began in January, culminating in 6 to 8 mile daily runs, 5 BX, and weekly mountain walks of up to 33 miles.

Technical training was also undertaken with snow and ice climbing from January to April, and rock climbing from May to September. As the time of departure drew near various skills, such as rigging belays, and fitting and removing crampons were practised over and over again to ensure the speed and safety necessary to complete alpine ascents rapidly and avoid being caught by sudden changes of weather conditions high on the mountains.

Using the Rosslare-Cherbourg ferry we crossed to France and drove to Cournayeur on the Italian flanks of Mont Blanc.

The next day, after buying fresh food and some equipment in the town we packed our rucksacks and started on the 5 hour climb to the Petite Mont Blanc Bivouac hut. It was planned to use this in our climb of the Tre la Tete, our first objective. The approach went smoothly, each of us climbing the broken rocks and snow fields at his own pace. By dusk the group was reunited in the hut, and immediately after dinner went to bed, setting the alarm clock for 03.30 hours to ensure an early start. This was essential in order to complete the climb and descent before the afternoon sun softened the snow, causing avalanche conditions.

By 05.00 hrs. we were climbing on good snow up the ridge leading to the Petite Mont Blanc summit, which was reached at 06.00. It was still dark, and bitterly cold, but the headlamps gave good visibility. The route now lay down a rocky spur and ice slope to a glacier. This was more difficult than the ridge so we now climbed one at a time until everyone had safely crossed the huge crevass at the bottom of the ice slope. By now it was daylight, and after a halt to cover all exposed flesh with glacier cream, rapid progress was made up the glacier, to its headwall.

The headwall was obviously going to be the major obstacle of the climb, being composed of snow/ice at an angle of 50° in the lower half and 40° higher up. It was about 200 ft. high and was separated from the glacier by a large crevass, one fragile snow bridge connecting it to the glacier in the manner of a Gothic flying buttress. The main body of climbers rapidly tired of sitting on the snow

Cpl. Len O'Rourke and Pte. Dave Cunningham on the summit of Aig de Trelatete.

and for some reason seemed to feel that I should amuse them by attempting the snow bridge. Only a certain amount of time can be reasonably spent in re-arranging ones gear, so there was nothing for it except to ease across the bridge, treating it with loving care, until ice axe and hammer picks could be driven into the sound ice of the headwall. It was then possible to pull quickly up the wall, standing on crampon front points and using ice screws and "dead men" for protection. By 09.30 the party was reunited above the wall.

A new problem now arose. The snow here was loose and powdery and forced us to remove our crampons. It took an hour's hard work to flounder our way up to better going. The effects of altitude were becoming apparent, as any effort resulted in rapid panting for oxygen. Crampons had to be refitted for the last 700 ft. to the summit. It seemed to take an age to do this with fingers frozen by the strong north wind which sprang up out of a clear dark blue sky. We reached the summit, 12,775 ft. at 11.30 hrs. and started back down fifteen minutes later. By 12.45, Dave who was in front, was climbing down the headwall to the glacier, belayed by the rest of the party. Suddenly he fell backwards, somersaulting and knocking himself out. The rope held. After checking the belays I climbed down to Dave, who was hanging upside down, and righted him. He soon recovered consciousness, but was badly concussed and feeling very dizzy. It took 3 hours to get him down to the glacier, instead of the 10 minutes which we had expected. The afternoon sun had softened the glacier surface, so the descent went at a slow plod, until the ice slope leading up to the Petite Mont Blanc was reached. Due to the afternoon sun small avalanches were coming down the slope, which was waterglazed and pockmarked by falling stones. With only an hour's daylight left there was no time for delay.

We climbed straight up the slope to the rocks and protected by these, traversed onto the snow ridge leading back to the bivouac hut.

Because of Dave's condition we spent the night in the hut and returned to the valley the next day. Despite our mishap we were all quite happy about future prospects, as it was now clear that the party had sufficient training and reserves to cope with emergencies.

The next day, Sunday 9th, dawned fine. We decided to attempt Mont Blanc, at 15,662 ft. the highest mountain in Europe, while the weather held. The 6 hour climb up the Miage glacier to the Gonella hut went smoothly until the last few feet, when Len decided to provide some diversion by falling into a large crevass. Our somewhat shaken shouts into the depths produced an equally shaken reply, much to our relief. He was quickly hauled out, somewhat bruised and bloody, but determined to go on. Once the hut was gained we went to bed after a quick meal, as we would have to get an early start.

Leaving the hut at 23.30 hrs. after eating "breakfast we climbed up the Aig Grises ridge by moonlight. By 02.00 hrs. the summit of the Aig Gris, 13,007 ft. was only a few minutes away. The sky had been clouding over for some time and suddenly a thunderstorm broke out, accompanied by heavy snow and gusts of wind. Such conditions made a bid for Mt. Blanc impossible so a quick decision resulted in a dash to the Aig Gris summit, as a consolation prize. This was followed by a retreat down a gulley to the Dome glacier, where white-out conditions resulted in a bivouac until dawn. Soon after dawn the storm cleared, and it was possible to pick out a winding route down the glacier through its crevasses. By mid-afternoon we were back at base, sunbathing on green grass. As the fresh snow needed time to consolidate the next day was spent resting and re-organizing. The 'Q' branch turned up with some horsemeat for dinner, but the pressure cooker soon civilized it.

An early night had been planned for Tuesday, in preparation for a renewed assault on Mt. Blanc. As it turned out we spent half the night assisting a Polish/Swiss party to retreat from the Aig. Noire de Peuteuray, where they had been caught by a storm. Because of this we anticipated that we might feel tired on the ascent to the hut next day, but in fact reached it easily in 4 hours, a sign of good acclimatization. On the earlier attempt there had been 8 or 9 other climbers on the route, but this time we were on our own. The mountain was far from quiet, however, as there were frequent rockfalls on a face opposite the hut, which periodically shook as a huge ice block, or serac, collapsed on the glacier below with a thunderous roar.

By midnight we were once again climbing steadily upwards, using the glacier route this time. By 03.00 we were moving carefully along a knife-edged ridge in bright moonlight. This led up to the Dome. Once across this the route joined the ordinary route from the French side, where a constant stream of climbers had beaten a track in

the snow. It was now just a matter of climbing slowly and steadily up the final ridge panting rapidly in the thinning air. At 06.45 we reached the summit. The snow slopes swept down on all sides. At this altitude 15,622 ft. air pressure is only 60% of sea level. but breathing was no problem unless one is climbing. At 07.00 the sun rose over the Swiss Alps turning the snows to red. A chill wind sprang up, instantly numbing all exposed flesh. We turned and plunged rapidly downwards towards the still dark Western valleys. The descent went well, and by mid afternoon we were back in our tents, celebrating with chicken stew and Chianti.

Friday 14th saw us moving camp to Breuil, 50 miles away, the Italian base for climbing the Matterhorn, our next objective. The town has no campsite, so after an uncomfortable night camped beside the town dump it was a relief to start on the 6 hour climb to the Carroll hut. The climbing was enjoyable, on sun-warmed rock, and the hut itself is superbly located. It is perched half way up the Italian arete, with a balcony overhanging the South and West faces. The toilet arrangements would be familiar to anyone with UN service, being of the long drop variety, in this case about 400 feet of a drop! The only drawback was that flurries of snow tended to erupt from the seat at critical moments.

The upper section of the route involved difficult rock climbing and route finding, so for once there was no question of a pre-dawn start. At 06.30 we stepped out of the hut into a cold dawn. Immediately in front of us was an overhang, followed by steep slabs. The rock was solid, rough granite, and some strenuous pulls soon vanquished the overhang, warming us up as well. Pitch followed pitch, smoothly and carefully. 11.00 hrs. found us at the foot of the final overhanging tower. Panting hard from high altitude effort expended on this tower, the roof-like summit was gained within a few minutes. The weather was perfect, in stark contrast to 1975 when I had been driven off the mountain by a thunderstorm only 200 ft. below the summit. After photographs and lunch it was time to start the descent, as the plan was to climb down the Swiss Arete, thus traversing the mountain from South to North, and ending by crossing back into Italy that same evening.

The upper part of the Swiss Arete was snow-covered so ice axes and crampons were pressed into service. Lower down the route followed a series of steep gullies. While descending these we had a narrow escape from falling rocks. These were knocked by a British party descending behind us when one of them fell, dislodging boulders the size of wheelbarrows. We jumped for the edge of the gully and just managed to reach it as they shot past, leaving a smell of sulphur in the air. No one said anything, but the incident did wonders for the speed at which we continued the descent, zipping downwards to keep well out of the line of fire. This was the route I had climbed in 1975 so route finding presented few problems, and the Hornli hut was reached at 1700 hrs. There was no time to halt however, as the plan now called for a traverse under the East face in order to reach the Fuggrat and return to Italy. The route crossed rock and ice avalanche debris beneath a hanging glacier. Such going is well calculated to produce a smart turn of speed, with no tendency to dawdle, so progress was rapid. By 21.30 we were back in Breuil, too tired even to notice the discomfort of the campsite.

By now our time was running short, so it was decided to move down the valley and take a general look over the area as a reconnaissance for 1980. While doing this we were able to climb the Grand Tournalin, 11,000 ft. as it provided an excellent central viewpoint for examining the surrounding big peaks. Our route home crossed the Grand St. Bernard Pass into Switzerland and then to Chamonix, in France.

The weather started to deteriorate the day after we reached Chamonix and got steadily worse on the trip back up France as we headed for Cherbourg. Once aboard the ferry the weather was quickly forgotten, an outline plan for the 1980 Alpine campaign was discussed and talk revolved around the prospects for a good hard winter with plenty of snow on "Lug". This year's bag of peaks was already fading into the past, and would soon be of less importance than next years intent. The active mountaineer must always either advance or stagnate.

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Corrections

In last month's issue the photograph of the winner of the *An Cosantoir* Trophy (page 385) was CQMS Ted O'Keeffe, 1 Mot. Sqn., Fermoy.

The Great Withdrawal

On page 368 after the words 'the shipment took place?' should be 'Why was there no escorting destroyer or armed guard on the vessel?' On page 366 the following was omitted from the Field Troops of the Irish Command: '5th Division (HQ Curragh), with three Infantry Brigades

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CURRAGH COMMAND

Organisers of a remembrance ceremony of the Papal visit held at the Garrison Church were L. to R: Comdt. T. Kempton; Sister Catherine; Fr. W. Harrington, CF and Lt. Col. C. Nagle. (Photo: Curragh Press office)

Apprentice E. Kelly, SPA winner of the Command Novice Cross Country Title receiving his trophy from G.O.C. Brig. Gen. D. Hurley. (Photo: Curragh Press office)

At the Artillery Club Dinner in McGee Barracks, Kildare were (above) two former Directors with their wives, Col. T. Walshe on left and Col. J. S. Nolan. (Photo: Curragh Press office)

Involved in Donncha O'Dulaing's Travelling Roadshow programme from the Curragh were: L. to R: Lt. Col. Colm Cox, O.C. Cadet School; Donncha O'Dulaing; Capt. John Skehan (Retd.) and Comdt. Joe McGough (Retd.) as were of course Sliabh na mBan which figured prominently in the programme. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Lt. Col. J. P. Duggan (Retd.) and Lt. Col. T. Furlong (Retd.) (Photo Curragh Press Office)

Presentation of Plaque by the 39 Command and Staff Course Graduates to the Military College. L. to R: Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan; Comdt. O. Macdonald, Class President; Col. T. Ryan, O.C. Military College and Col. E. Condon, O.C. Command and Staff School. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

FROM INISHEER TO HEALY'S ISLAND

Lt-Col. W. A. Nott

NINETEEN members of the Army Sub-Aqua Group underwent a weeks sub-aqua adventure training in Lahinch (Co. Clare) recently. Drawn from all units of the Defence Forces, the Group has organised (under the direction of the Director of Training) sub-aqua camps at Fort Dunree (Donegal), Fort Duncannon (Wexford) and Lahinch over the past five years. This year Lahinch was again chosen, principally on account of its accessability to some extraordinary diving along a coast line that is quite unique in Western European terms. However, in poor conditions, the fact that this whole area is so exposed to the west (the Clare coast-line has been described as a brick wall facing the Atlantic) makes diving hazardous, if not impossible and even in good conditions, to be dived only by those of some experience. On this occasion weather conditions proved to be favourable.

Arriving in Lahinch on the Friday evening the briefing for the ensuing weeks diving commenced immediately conducted by the Diving Officer, Capt. Pat Sweeney. The programme was an ambitious one entailing two dives per day on locations as far apart as Inisheer (one of the Aran Islands) to the North and Healy's Island a few miles north of Loop Head to the south. Thrown in for good measure were a number of Club Diver Tests and a search exercise off Mutton Island for an Armada wreck. Signalman John Greensmith was given command over our flotilla of boats which consisted of a **Seacraft, Zodiac** and **Calligari Inflatable** and three metal assault craft all powered by 25 or 35 h.p. outboard motors. Four 5 cu. ft. per minute compressors (3 diesel) made up our heavy plant equipment.

Saturday dawned bright and clear and a favourable shipping forecast put all in good form for diving. Our location was to be Seafield (near Quilty) with diving on the reefs north of Mutton Island. Depths were curtailed to 30 meters or less in order to let the divers get warmed up before proceeding deeper. Lime and Seal Rocks are the two main reefs north of Mutton Island and, while they are by no means spectacular locations, they are useful introductory dives. Lunch on site was organised by Capt. Dave Hyland assisted by his staff in the 3rd AA Regiment who were in charge of logistics. After a second dive in the afternoon we were satisfied that both engines and boats were behaving satisfactorily and the green light was given for the Aran expedition of the following day.

A 30ft. half-decker was hired from Doolin to ferry the main party to Inisheer and this was accompanied to the Island by three of our smaller craft from which the actual diving would be conducted. A light southerly wind was blowing and conditions were as near to perfect as one could hope to get in this area. The initial idea was to dive inside Finnis Reef to the south side of the island but as early parties reported quite shallow water in this area the bulk of divers eventually submerged on the outside reef about 200m west of Finnis Buoy in the direction of the light house. It proved to be a spectacular dive. All forms of west coast marine life were visible from pollock averaging 10 lbs weight to cuckoo wrasse of all colours and crustaceans of all shapes and sizes. As the bottom was relatively shallow (20m), dives were not too deep to be able to appreciate the impressive array of colours which enveloped the entire reef. As this outside area of the

L. to R: Cpl. Doyle; Capt. Fogarty; Comdts. Hearns and Ahern and Capt. Sweeney at Kilkee.

reef runs for quite a short distance it proved to be difficult to locate in the high tide of the afternoon. Nevertheless, all members of the party got at least one run - enough to leave lasting memories of what the west coast of Ireland can offer in good conditions.

Our base was relocated to the Seafield area on Monday and Tuesday with the intention of going down on the Gander Rocks and sampling the great diving that we knew extended from Brandon Point to the North of Mutton Island. Brandon Reef is approximately two miles seawards of Mutton Island and the top of it is partially visible at low tide. It is well known to local fishermen as a shipping hazard but can be quite difficult to locate in a calm sea and especially at high tide. On this occasion we had little difficulty in that respect and by eleven o'clock on a calm and sunny Monday morning the first parties descended on the reef. The area is not noted for good visibility but the diver is more than compensated by the sight of dramatic "drops off" to 40 and 50 meters with part of the reef breaking into canyons. Because of its exposure to the elements the reef is rarely "pot" fished and it is said that the lobster and crawfish die of old age on the ledges!

On Tuesday it was decided to change our dive pattern to date and conduct a search exercise inside Mutton island for the Armada wreck *Marcos*, reputed to be in the area. Our plan was to cover as much ground as possible utilising three swim lines, two with four divers abreast and one with five. While we did not expect to locate the *Marcos*, it was felt that the experience gained in search techniques would be invaluable. After a briefing by the old hands of search missions carried out by the Army divers in recent years, the parties took to the water with visions of Spanish Gold. Happy to relate, the *Marcos* lies blissfully undisturbed in her last resting place!

(Continued on page 25)

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'THE CRUEL SEA' - The Irish Connection

Captain Frank Forde, M.Mar.

'THE Cruel Sea' by Nicholas Monsarrat is generally held to be the best novel dealing with the Battle of the Atlantic in World War Two. It is based on the author's own experiences as a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officer throughout the war during which he served on corvettes and latterly commanded a frigate. The book was first published in 1951, and made a most successful film a few years later with Jack Hawkins playing the leading role as Lieutenant-Commander Ericson. It is now in its eleventh edition in paperback and has been translated into nineteen languages.

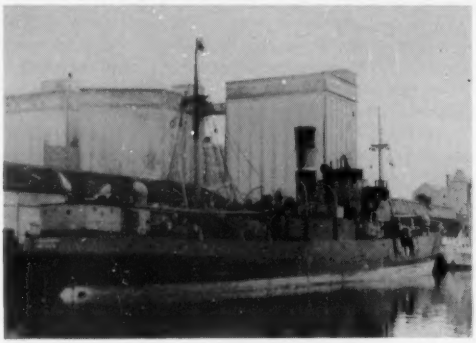
And people in nineteen other countries will have read what Lieutenant N. J. T. Monsarrat, RNVR, thought of Ireland's neutral stance in the conflict. America (before Pearl Harbour), Spain or the Argentine he could understand, but not us. 'It was difficult to withhold one's contempt from a country such as Ireland', . . .'the cost in men and ships, added months to the struggle, and ran up a score which Irish eyes a-smiling on the day of Allied victory were not going to cancel', . . . 'In the list of people you were prepared to like when the war was over, the man who stood by and watched while you were getting your throat cut could not figure very high'.*

He could forgive the blackmarketeers, petrol peddlers, army dodgers, shipyard layabouts, striking dockers, but not the Irish. In the words of the famous ballad - 'He scorned us just for being what we are.'

In 1975 Cassel published 'Monsarrat at Sea', a collection of all his writings on the sea with the exception of 'The Cruel Sea'. Chapter Six, 'It was Cruel', consists of the sea war pages from his autobiography 'Life is a Four Letter Word'. On page 297 he recalls 'we now embarked on the most horrible voyage of all, made especially foul by the fair weather which blessed us throughout the trip. This time our run was south to Gibraltar, to calm seas and hot sunshine, and to the longest gauntlet of murder we were ever likely to encounter.'

The convoy to which he refers was OG 71 which sailed from Milford Haven for Gibraltar in August 1941. It consisted of 22 ships and was escorted by a destroyer, a sloop and six corvettes. A study of the convoy list, released into the Public Record Office, London, under the thirty year role, discloses that two of the merchant ships flew the Irish flag and both were owned by the Limerick Steam Ship Company. They were the s/s 'Clonlara' (Captain J. Reynolds of Drogheda) and s/s 'Lanahrone' (Captain W. A. Tyrrell of Arklow). In none of his books does Mr. monsarrat make any reference to this Irish connection with OG 71.

All went well with the convoy until it was sighted by a Focke-Wulf reconnaissance aircraft on 17th



s/s 'Lanahrone' of Limerick which sailed in convoy OG 71 from Cardiff to Lisbon during August 1941. (Photo: R. J. Scott)

August and then followed six days and nights of battle as OG 71 defended itself against air and submarine attack. From German sources we learn that no less than seven U-Boats were directed by Admiral Donitz against the convoy. They were most successful, sinking in all eight merchant ships and two navals with no losses to themselves.

By the morning of 23rd August the passage of OG 71 was causing serious concern at the Admiralty in London for it was obvious that the convoy was facing annihilation. Another night of battle could only result in more losses, for despite destroyer reinforcements sent out from Gibraltar, the U-Boats were having no difficulty in penetrating the escort screen. The Navy decided to take no further risks and at 1632 hours a signal was dispatched to the senior officer of the escort on board HMS 'Leith'.. . . "All ships of OG 71 are to be escorted to Tagus and instructed to proceed to Lisbon" . . .

So ended the battle for convoy OG 71, the merchant ships crossing the Tagus bar shortly before midnight on 23rd August. Monsarrat comments 'we took what was left of our flock into the safe neutral prudent waters of Portugal'. No harsh words here for England's 'oldest ally' and her neutrality. The venom was reserved for Ireland.

One of the sunken merchant ships was the passenger steamer 'Aquila' which went down in three minutes taking with her a detachment of twenty members of the Womens Royal Naval Service. 'Clonlara' was also lost, only nine of her crew of twenty surviving. Captain Reynolds was not among them. The naval losses were HMS 'Bath', manned by men of the Free Norwegian Navy, which had eight survivors from a crew of 124, and the corvette HMS 'Zinnia', which disintegrated

following a torpedo hit, only 15 of her crew of 90 being picked up. Commanding 'Zinnia' was Lieutenant-Commander Cuthbertson and Monsarrat tells us that when writing 'The Cruel Sea' he based his hero, Ericson, on him. Lieutenant Monsarrat during the battle was serving on the corvette HMS 'Campanula' and she stopped to pick up survivors from her sister ship. This incident is also recorded in the famous novel with the name of 'Zinnia' changed to 'Sorrel'.

In his short story 'H.M. Corvette' Monsarrat deals in some length with the passage of OG 71 (without naming it or the ships involved) in the chapter titled 'Short Account of a Seven Day Party'. Again there is no mention that two Irish vessels were in the vonvoy and shared his ordeal.

'Clonlara' distinguished herself at the height of the battle in the early hours of 20th August, when the ships in flames about her, night turned into day by bursting flares and the continuous rumble of exploding depth charges she stopped to pick up survivors from the Scottish ship 'Alva', torpedoed in the column ahead of her. Only four of those she rescued survived her own sinking two nights later.

At that time on board 'Lanahrone' there occurred an incident of cold blooded bravery. In her stokehold (she was a coal burning steamer) 42 year old Fireman P. Millar from Henry Street, Limerick, was on duty. He, working far below the waterline, felt the ship shudder from the torpedo detonations and the track and echo of the depth charges. Not for one monent knowing security from fear, every nerve in his body must have been on edge, screaming at him to leave the hell hole where he worked, surrounded by boilers and steam pipes, and get on deck.

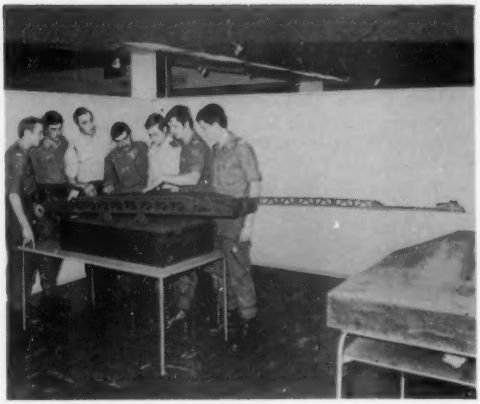
An opportunity arose for him to do so, for he fell and badly scraped his left shin bone. He should have sought first aid. But he calmly removed a sweat rag from about his neck, wrapped it around the torn flesh and picked up his shovel to continue firing the boilers.

After the action, when the incident was reported to him, Captain Tyrrell was deeply moved and entered in his Log Book the laconic statement:
"10 pm, 22nd August 1941, during submarine attack, P. Millar fell into the stokehold pit scraping the shin bone of his left leg badly. Did not cease work because of the injury.
W. A. Tyrrell, Master."

Here, for the record, was Arklow admiration of Limerick valour, which in other countries would have been acknowledged with a decoration. But wartime censorship and peacetime indifference have kept the incident a secret, filed away on a shelf in Dublin's Public Record Office.

Such were the men Nicholas Monsarrat could write so bitterly of in 'The Cruel Sea'.

The author died from cancer in London's King Edward VII Hospital on 8th August 1979. His ashes were scattered at sea from the frigate HMS 'Scylla' which sailed from Portsmouth five days later.



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The principle of developing training aids, that save time, money and effort, has been carried one step further by a British based company, IWASZKO Limited of Harrow, Middlesex. Iwaszko's Military Training Aids Division has recently introduced a 1/12 scale model of the British Army's highly advanced and mobile Medium Girder Bridge. The model bridge allows simulated field training in the classroom, without the difficulties and cost associated with the mounting of frequent, full scale exercises with the real bridge.

Training with the model allows troops the opportunity of total familiarity with the logistical considerations, the deployment, purpose and location of components, the construction procedures and the high performance characteristics of the full scale bridge. Engineer units can learn by experience, without damage or cost, the penalties of careless construction and launch procedures. This is possible only because of the detailed accuracy of the components, which are weighted and finely balanced to reproduce the performing of the real bridge, at every stage of construction and dismantling.

The above photo, issued by IWASZKO, show personnel working on the model, with the same intensity and concentration of youngsters with their first Mecchano set!

—Comdt. D. Lee

Army Record?

At the Army Headquarters Christmas Dinner in McKee Officers Mess the Chief of Staff mentioned that Col. J. Counihan, Dir. P & R was attending his 35th Christmas Dinner in the Mess. This must surely be an army record and maybe even one for the Guinness Book?

Another Record

Glenside *have issued* **The Ballad of Michael Collins**, *written and sung by Brendan O'Reilly (with* **Kathleen Mavourneen** *on reverse). The* **Ballad**, *which was already issued in Brendan's book of verse* **The Great Explosion**, *(see* **An Cosantoir** *Oct. 1977) is sung with a good voice, and should prove popular with all who like patriotic songs. The combination of TV personality, poet and singer is unusual; Mr. O'Reilly is to be congratulated on his enterprise.*

An Amhrán Náisiúnta é do na críocha Geilteacha?

"TEANGA AR SINSEAR", AINTIUN CEILTEACH

Cathal O Sándair

"Tá seachtó véarsa san Amhráin Náisiúnta Uraguach", deirtear linn, agus leantar mar seo go greannmhar: "agus b'fhéidir gurb é sin an fáth a bhfuil arm *seasta* Uraguach ann."

Níl fhios agam ar athraigh na hUraguaigh a n-aintiún ó scríobh Harold Adamson na focail sin. Ach is fíor go mbíonn amhráin náisiúnta nua ag teacht ar an saol i gcónaí — náisiúin nua neamhspleácha ag glacadh chucu féin na samhail chomharthaí den tsaoirse, agus náisiúin níos sine ag fágáil i leataobh amhráin amháin chun ceann úrnua as an bpíosa a ghlacadh.

Uaireanta, ar ndóigh, ceanglaítear níos mó ná amhrán amháin le tír. Scaití, freisin, bíonn an fonn céanna ag níos mó ná tír amháin — ach na focail a bheith éagsúil. On Réabhlóid Rúiseach go 1944, bhíodh an "Internationale" ag an Aontas Sóivéideach. On mbliain sin smach, ba é "Iomann an Aontais Shóivéidigh" an t-aintiún. San Ostair go dtí 1918, bhíodh "Iomann an Impire" mar Amhrán Náisiúnta. An fonn céanna atá ag "Aontacht, Ceart agus Saoirse" na nGearmánach.

Céard faoi seo i mo dhiaidh mar aintiún sa bhreis in Eirinn iathghlas oileánach:

"Tá teanga ár sinsear ríluachmhar elm' chroí,
Seanteanga na mbard, na sárfhear is na rí,
Chomh fada 's tá muir ag líonadh 's ag tráth
Sea mhairfidh ár dteanga fá bhláth:
Ar dteanga, grá mo chroí is tú,
In ardbhaile 's tuath, go déanach 's go luath,
Go labraítear ár dteanga go buach!"

Agus cén fonn atá ag gabháil leis seo? Bhuel, fonn é a úsaáideann ceithre thír Cheilteach ar a laghad cheana féin! Ach is iad a bhfocail éagsúla féin atá acu. Na háiteann faoi thrácht — an Bhreatain Bheag, Corn na Breataine, an Bhriotáin, agus Oileán Mhanann. Go dtí seo, ní thig liom teacht ar leagan Albanach, act táis dóchasach go dtiocfaidh mé fós ar cheann. An fonn atá i gceist, "Tír m'Aithreacha", le James James ón mbliain 1856.

"Tá an t-Amhrán Náisiúnta Breatnach seo i ndiaidh a ionad a thógáil i measc amhrán náisiúnta an domhain," léimid. "Is é an ceann is uaisle ag náisiún ar bith é. Na focail bhunaidh Bhreatnach, deirtear gur scríobhadh iad ar tráthnóna Domhnaigh in Eanáir, 1856, ag Evan James, máistir-fhíodóir, le fonn (bunaithe, b'fhéidir, ar cheol Breatnach) le James James (1833-1902), a mhac agus a chomhoibrí."

Canadh an t-amhrán don chéad uair ag Eisteddfod clúil Llangollen, 1858. Sa teanga náisiúnta, ar ndóigh, a cumadh é:

"Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri . .

Sin — "is luachmhar liom seantíir m'aithreacha, tír na mbard agus na n-amhránaithe, agus fír chlúla de thábhacht." Tá, ar ndóigh, focail Bhéarla leis:

"Tha land of my fathers is dear unto me,
Old land where the minstrels are honoured and free;
Its warring defenders so gallant and brave,
For freedom their life's blood they gave."

Sa Leabhar Amhrán Cornach, "Lyver Canow Kernewek", tagaimid ar an bhfonn céanna mar Amhrán Náisiúnta do Chorn Ceilteach na Breataine. An t-ainm, "Bro Goth Agan Tasow", nó "Seantír ár nAithreacha. "Seo i mo dhiaidh an curfá:

"Kernow! Kernow! Ny gar Kernow,
Hedra vyth mor glan 'vel fos ny dha dro
'Th-on 'Onen hag 011' rag Kernow."

Agus Béarla air sin:

"Cornwall! Cornwall! We love Cornwall!
As long as the fair sea shall be like a wall around thee,
We are 'One and All' for Cornwall!"

Deirtear linn go ndeachaigh na Ceiltigh thar muir ón gCorn isteach i mBriotáin na Fraince anallód. Tá fonn James James acu sa réigiún Ceilteach sin ina labhraítear an Bhriotáinis fós. Taldir a rinne an t-aistriúchán go dtí an teanga náisiúnta.

VVChengey ny Mayrey" a thugann lucht Gaeilge Oileán álainn aoibhinn Mhanann ar a dteanga náisiúnta, an Mhanainnis, "teanga na máthaire". Agus anseo i mo dhiaidh — an cúigiú leagan de "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" le Ieuan ab Iago (lena ainm Breatnaise a thabhairt don fhíodóir ó Phontypridd, Evan James):

"Ta chengey ny mayrey fee-feeu da my chree,
Shennchengey ny vard, ny seyr aigney 's ny ree . ."

sin, d'fhonn agus an chosúlacht le Gaeilge na hEireann a léiriú:

"Tá teanga na máthaire fíor-fiú do mo chroí,
Sean teanga na bhard, na saoraigne 's rí . . ."

Smaoineamh deas aintiún leis an bhfonn céanna ag na críocha Ceilteacha? Pé scéal é, tá cúig leagan againn cheana féin — in Eirinn, sa Bhreatain Bheag, i gCorn na Breataine, in Ellan Vannin, agus sa Bhriotáin. Ach i leagan ar bith, nílimid baol ar gar do sheachtó véarsa na nUraguach!

30 INFANTRY BATTALION KILKENNY

ALL-ARMY INTER-UNIT CHAMPIONS, "THREE IN A ROW," 1977/78/79

Back Row (left to right) : BSM Bert Callaghan, Sgt Maurice Ryan, Cpl Pat Butler, Pte Joe Earle, Pte Ollie Cullen, Cpl Eugene Grehan, Cpl Mick McCarthy, Sgt Richie Hogan, Sgt Shem Grady.

Front Row (left to right) : Pte Mick Nolan, Cpl Peter Prendergast, Sgt Willie O'Brien, Lt Col Pat Grennan, O/C 30 Bn; Cpl Jim Cooper (Capt), Comdt Eamon Goulding, Sgt Liam Barry, Pte Tommy Prendergast, Sgt Eddie O'Neill.

Not included : Pte Tom Berry, Cpl Sean Kiely, Pte Sean Holden, Cpl Mick Sullivan, Pte Noel Casey.

This is one of the interesting photographs from a calendar produced by this enterprising unit.

NEW ATLAS

The Royal Irish Academy, under the direction of the National Committee of Geography, has produced a magnificent **Atlas of Ireland**, *a project first considered by Prof. Mitchell and others some forty years ago, but now realised under the guidance of the professors of Geography from TCD, UCD, Queen's University and other experts. The maps, printed by George Philip and Son, London, show such diverse features as placenames in Irish and English, geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna, population changes, historic sites, agriculture, manufacturing, transport, education (educational establishments attended etc.), state of the language from 1851 to 1971, folk traditions, administrative regions for such things as tourism, circuit courts, dioceses, health. There is no reference to army or garda districts, perhaps for security reasons, though Commands, with their headquarters, barracks and posts and police districts could usefully have been included as they are already well known from telephone and other directories.*

Curragh Christmas

RTE devoted a lot of time to the Curragh Command in its Christmas schedules. Donncha O Dulaing featured personnel in both his T.V. and Radio Roadshows as well as presenting the Curragh Band with the Nas na Ri Singers in a programme of Christmas Carols.

THE DISCOVERY OF TUTANKHAMUN's TOMB. Howard Carter and Harry Burton. Blandford Press. £3.50.

The cover of this book states 'For everyone who has already seen the Tutankhamun exhibit now travelling across America, and for the countless others eagerly awaiting its arrival - this book is an absolute must.' Similarly for those who may have been fortunate to have seen the exhibits in their home in Cairo, and penetrated into the tomb itself in Upper Egypt it could be classified as a 'must'. Produced to mark the arrival of the exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, it consists of appropriate excerpts from Howard Carter's early books on the subject, and the photographs are mostly those taken on site by Burton. Contemporary newspaper cuttings and quotes from letters, complete the text.

When this tomb was discovered by Carter, and others, in 1922 it caused a worldwide sensation; what had always been hoped for had happened, an intact royal burial had been found. And it did not disappoint. The objects were beautiful, the burial itself fantastic. This publication offers a succinct guide to the discovery, the sepia photographs leading us from the arid desert outside to the dry calm and extraordinary paraphernalia of the

OFFICERS PROMOTIONS - DECEMBER

Name	To	From	To
Moloney, R.	Lt. Col.	2 i/c 2 Bn.	OC 1 Garr MPC

NCOs PROMOTIONS - DECEMBER

Rank	Name	Unit	Promoted to	To
S/CPO	Power, D.	N.S.	WO	N.S.
CPO	Scannon, J.	N.S.	WO	N.S.
CPO	Byrne, J.	N.S.	WO	N.S.
Sgt.	Flynn, L.	3 Bn.	C/S	3 Bn.
Sgt.	Mooney, F.	McKee Bks. Coy	C/S	Clancy Bks. Coy.
Sgt.	McGranaghan, W.	27 Bn.	CQMS	27 Bn.
Sgt.	O'Halloran, R.	3 Bn.	CQMS	GT Depot
Sgt.	Taylor, R.	8 Bn.	C/S	AHQ
Sgt.	Deevy, C.	2 Bde	C/S	AHQ
Sgt.	Lawlor, W.	AHQ	CQMS	AHQ
Sgt.	Lafferty, M.	1 Bn.	C/S	HQ FCA
Sgt.	Robinson, E.	4 FA Regt.	CQMS	9 FA Regt.
C/S	Donovan, J.	E. Comd. Hqrs.	BSM	Clancy Bks. Coy.
Sgt.	Culleton, R.	D/Ord.	C/S	D/Ord.

tomb itself and eventually, to the dried up mummy of the boy - king himself, the centre of all the embellishment. 'At all times and on all races, death has loomed as the most tremendous mystery and the last inevitable necessity that man's obscure destiny must face - and pathetic have been his efforts to throw light on the darkness shrouding his future', so wrote Carter the archaeologist, adding 'on the threshold of death he has always sought comfort in the love and affection which he hoped would knit him to the living, a natural yearning revealed in the ancient burial rituals'.

Con Costello.

Successful Terrorism

One reason for the probable continuation and increase of terrorism as a viable political tool is that it is successful and cost effective. Statistics show that the terrorist has an:

- 87 per cent probability of actually seizing hostages;
- 79 per cent chance that all members of the terrorist team would escape punishment or death, whether or not they successfully seized hostages;
- 40 per cent chance that all or some demands would be met in operations where something more than just safe passage or exit permission was demanded;
- 29 per cent chance of full compliance with such demands;
- 83 per cent chance of success where safe passage or exit, for the terrorist themselves or for others, was the sole demand;
- 67 per cent chance that, if concessions to the principal demands were rejected, all or virtually all members of the terrorist team could still escape alive by going underground, accepting safe passage in lieu of their original demands, or surrendering to a sympathetic government; and
- virtually a 100 per cent probability of gaining major publicity whenever that was one of the terrorists goals.

(Military Police - USA)

Pressure for Change

There can be little doubt that the pressure for change in our major institutions of social control - church, school, family, military and government - beginning in the early sixties and continuing today, must contribute to a crisis in the minds of those who ponder upon such changes. Those who are intimately involved in the study of these changes are students. Students have been a major force in anti-establishment behaviour, including terrorism in Japan, Germany, and the United States. The terrorists themselves are overwhelmingly middle class and college educated. Nearly all began with political activism between ages seventeen and twenty and all use similar rhetoric and apparently share a similar philosophy.

The current wave of terrorism has its roots in the decade of the sixties.

(Military Police - USA)

Disposable Force:

'Ireland no doubt contributed largely, both in soldiers and seamen to the defence of the empire. Multitudes of Irish arms, no doubt, supported the throne of a King, deservedly beloved and venerated by millions of FREEMEN: and countless multitudes of Irish arms will yet support that throne, when filled, but we earnestly hope at a very distant period, by that illustrious and amiable Personage whose solicitude for the happiness of Ireland has endeared him beyond measure to its generous-hearted natives.

'Ireland was no doubt, during the last war, the great *officina militum.* In former times, its hardy and valiant natives, patient of hunger, wet and cold, were, with the *permission of government,* drawn off in thousands to recruit the armies of France; and, on one memorable occasion at least, the Battle of Fontenoy, were employed to tear the well-earned laurels from the brows of their former fellow-subjects, whom (to use the words of our immortal bard) they should have been taught "to hug to their hearts with hooks of steel." In former times, the natives of Ireland were not permitted to shed their blood in the defence of their king. Archbishop Boulter, in a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, dated March 11, 1726, suggests "the expediency of *granting permission to recruit in Ireland for the British army:* at the same time declining expressly to urge the extending of that permission to inlist any men but those *who could bring certificates of their being Protestants and that their families were also Protestants."* But in latter times the services of Irishmen have been otherwise appreciated. It has been found by experience that Irish Roman Catholic soldiers will perform their appropriate duties with as much fidelity and alacrity as Protestant soldiers: and accordingly the natives of Ireland have at length come to constitute perhaps two-fifths of the disposable force of the empire, and are likely to constitute a much greater proportion. I cannot, however, believe that more than one hundred and twenty thousand Irish Roman Catholics, and about ten thousand Irish Protestants lost their lives in the course of last war in distant lands, in defence of our Constitution, Laws and Religion; and therefore cannot persuade myself that that war considered in all its effects, occasioned so great a loss as 310,792 souls.'

'A Statistical & Historical Inquiry . . of the Population of Ireland.' Thomas Newenham. 1805

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

YOUR MOVE

Caroline Walsh of the *Irish Times* was reviewing the Provincial Papers and came across two pieces about that proposed move by part of DOD to Galway, or is it Dundalk.

"If the Government thought moving a part of the Department of Defence to Galway would silence forever calls for a more widespread decentralisation plan they were wrong."

In an editorial entitled "A few more crumbs" in the *Roscommon Herald,* the paper welcomes the development but has its reservations. "To suggest that it is implementing the Government's decentralisation policy is drawing the long bow or, put it another way, it is political exaggeration."

Though it concedes that minor officials of other Departments have been located outside Dublin and that offices of the Department of Education and the Land Commission have been sited in Athlone and Castlebar respectively, such moves in the *Herald's* Eyes are only crumbs. The editorial also claims that the old excuse that civil servants would not work in provincial centres no longer holds good."

Even down in Galway they had a crib.

The *Galway Advertiser* also takes up the issue opening with a chastisement of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Molloy, for announcing the move on a Thursday thereby making life impossible for most weekly papers. That said, they welcome the decision, but point out that it is not enough. "This hiving off of parts of the Government machine, yet leaving the Minister's office in the capital, is not real decentralisation. It is not a process which brings government nearer to the people. If anything the gap between the boys in Dublin and the boys in Renmore will grow. All major decision-making will still have to be made up above and those who are negotiating the promotions ladder within a given Department will realise that if they are to get to the top they will ultimately have to go back to Dublin."

OFF THE LAND

If there is NOT a good rural, agricultural response to the Recruiting Drive it will not be the fault of the *Irish Farmers' Jounral.*

In *Farm Home,* a pull out magazine for all the family, Kathleen McMenamin wrote a most informative and interesting feature on career opportunities in the Defence Forces. There were some fine colour photos by Tony O'Gorman mainly of the Army apprentices of Naas. They were shown at their Woodwork and Radio studies but also in their military role over the Assault Course. The article had lots of facts and figures, addresses to contact for further information on Cadets, Apprentices, etc., and indeed would serve adequately as a Recruiting Brochure.

Full marks to the *Farmers' Jounral,* we may even forego the next PAYE march.

Dir. S&T, Col. A. Lernihan presents a plaque toC/S Bill Meyers on his retirement from the Forces. C/S Meyers was driver to the late President Eamon De Valera throughout his period as President. (Photo: P. Jones)

UPS AND DOWNS

It was a great day at Haulbowline. *L.E. Aoife* was named and commissioned. Six new Naval Officers, previously named, were also commissioned. And to cap it all O/C Air Corps became a Brigadier General and CONS became a Commodore. What a treble. The *Cork Examiner* had a field day with pictures of all concerned.

The name *Aoife,* according to the *Examiner,* is taken from a figure of Irish mythology, being the third daughter of the Chief of Inis Mor in the Aran Islands.

In the course of his speech An tAire announced the purchase of a 35 foot DUFOUR yacht which will be used as a sail training vessel for the Naval Service and may compete in offshore sailing races.

The *Irish Independent* devoted a leading article to the Naval Service and said that the part they played "is not sufficiently appreciated. Even the fishing industry appears to regard it in a kind of love-hate relationship".

The article concluded —

"What is important now as visualised by Mr. Brendan O'Kelly, B.I.M.'s Chairman, in an address to Naval Service personnel at Haulbowline, is a new type of co-operation between the Service and B.I.M. somewhat on the lines of the French Navy/industry relationship. Limits of 200 miles, he said, meant at least a ninefold increase in the sea area to be patrolled, and in the case of Ireland the increase has been from 15,000 to 132,000 square miles.

There is no doubt that an agreement on a Common Fisheries Policy in Europe will not only add immensely to our fishing potential and

responsibilities, but also the work and value of the Naval Service in increased fishery surveillance and intelligence in addition to its many other duties."

A KEG OF DYNAMITE

The Irish Exporters Association made some recommendations to the Minister for Finance about his budget but Defence is in their sights as well. Charles Mallon of the *Irish Independent* reports:

"Put the able-bodies unemployed to work in the Army, on the nation's roads, in our forests — and end the Social Welfare handouts.

This is one of the radical thoughts of the Irish Exporters Association in its pre-Budget submission to the Government. And the Association says that 1,000 military type vehicles should be parked outside unemployment exchanges to take those in receipt of benefits to work in order to get the country moving again, and conscription should be used to get the young unemployed "to recognise authority and the need for discipline".

Let's hope the Exporters allow us to import those 1,000 military type vehicles. But there's more to come —

"Immediate conscription for a minimum of one year is also put forward. The Association argues that this would not alone take people off the dole but "discipline them" on leaving school so that when they got jobs 'they will recognise authority and the need for discipline in our society'.

A keg of dynamite exists, says the submission, in that by the mid-1980s, some 250,000 people in the 18-23 age group will be unemployed."

If the 250,000 all have a year's military service behind them "a keg" is the understatement of the year.

UNIFED UP

This sad letter appeared in the *Evening Herald.*

CAN'T CASH CHEQUE

My husband is serving with the U.N. forces in the Lebanon and I get my wages by cheque. All I want to know is what do I have to do to exchange this cheque for cash. "Any bank" it says on the cheque, but the bank tellers and one bank manager tell me they don't know me. I must get someone with a bank account to endorse the cheque before they will change it. I find this very degrading and I have to get someone willing to trust me to endorse my cheque before I can get cash and then I have to go to their bank no matter where that may be. Also, will someone in the Post and Telegraphs tell me the correct cost of postage for an ordinary letter to the forces in the Lebanon.

Clondalkin. FED UP

ROBERT SAVAGE

Turf Accountant

Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin
Phone 401254

Four Winds Restaurant & Take Away

"THE BEST IN FOOD"
"HAUNT OF ARMY LADS"

111-113 SOUTH CIRCULAR ROAD, LEONARDS CORNER, DUBLIN 8.

D. McGrath & Son

Family Butcher
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UNIT 14,
RATHMINES TOWN HALL,
SHOPPING CENTRE,
DUBLIN 6. **Phone 504125**

HONDA YAMAHA RALEIGH
Motor Cycles Outboard Motors
Bicycles

JOE DAWSON
(Ex. Signal Corps)
TRIALS CHAMPION 1953 to 1957
316 N.C.R., DALYMOUNT, DUBLIN
Telephone: 300947

What a pity she does not contact his Unit. There is a strong Army contingent in Clondalkin and any of them would be delighted to make the necessary arrangements for her at the Bank.

Meanwhile those in the Lebanon sent this to the *Herald.*

TROOPS ABROAD SEEK PEN FRIENDS

I would be very pleased if you could publish this letter for girl penfriends, as we are all very lonely out here due to the fact that our letters from our families are very slow getting here.

We are all Dublin lads and would be thankful if you could get them to send on photos of themselves. We would be very grateful if you could get as many as you could. We would really be very grateful and happy if you could do this for us as six months is a very long time.

JOE KENNY,
JIMMY KEOGH,
RAYMOND JENKINS.
Movement for 'A' Coy Pen Pals.

'A' Company, No. 1 Platoon,
46th Inf. Barracks,
Unifil Unbpo Box 3540,
Tel Aviv, Israel.

PS — This is a genuine request for pen pals. We will distribute these letters to the rest of our Company.

Does the C.S. in 'A' Coy know there's a movement abroad?

ANOTHER BARRIER DOWN

This was the headline for an editorial in the *Cork Examiner* on the Women's Service Crops which was very much in the news recently. Said the *Examiner*:—

> "Male chauvinists have their own view about 'Women's Lib'. Both the male chauvinist and those who act as spokespersons for women's 'rights' will find themselves in step with more conservative opinion as regards a welcome to the new Army Women's Service Crops.
>
> The latest news on the subject which, in its own way represents a social revolution in Ireland, is that over 1,000 applications have been received to date by the Department of Defence from both married and single women for places in the 'Women's Army'. There are many who would have the most serious reservations about a woman's army and strong for and against arguments could be made on the matter but in the case of the new Army Women's Service Corps, the morality of such an issue does not arise — at least for the time being. Ireland's first conventional women soldiers will not play a combative role. Their duties will not go beyond existing appointments of a suitable nature in various units. However, they will be given training in the use of small arms and married personnel will live in married quarters."

Married personnel in married quarters. What a turnabout that is going to be. Adjutant to Commanding Officer, "Mr. Browne from Quarters wants to see you about his wife. She is doing too much duty and is never at home."

SERENDIPITY

If you are ordered to volunteer for the task of conducting Educational Training the following verse may be of interest. It was published in the Naval Service magazine *SPINDRAFT.*

Singular Plurals

You may see a lone mouse, or a whole nest of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But a bow, if repeated, is never called bine;
And the plural of vow is vows, never vine.
If you speak of a foot and you show me your feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth, and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
The masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim!
So English, I think, you all will agree,
Is quite as strange as a language can be!

A reader of the *Daily Telegraph* sent them this military gem.

> I was reminded of being in a meal queue in the Army in 1941. Weary recruits were perching on the ends of the tables at which they were eventually to sit and eat and a frenzied orderly corporal was tearing up and down the line exhorting them to "Sit off them tables".

ENTER MILAN

The Milan demonstration at Glen Imaal received widespread coverage by newspapers and Television. Ignorami like us thought it was an Italian system from the same stable as the Bambino. Wrong again said The Cops. MILAN stands for

BARGAINLINE

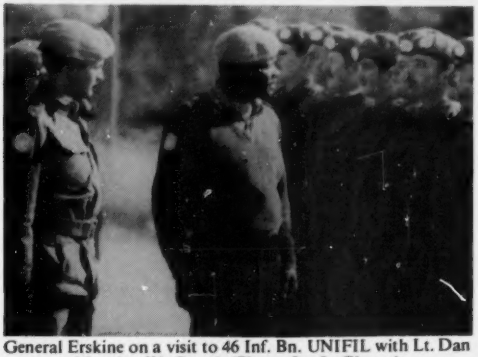
15 Arran Quay
Dublin 7.

Cookers Reconditioned and New
All Goods Guaranteed
Washing Machines plus Spares
Vacuum Cleaners etc.

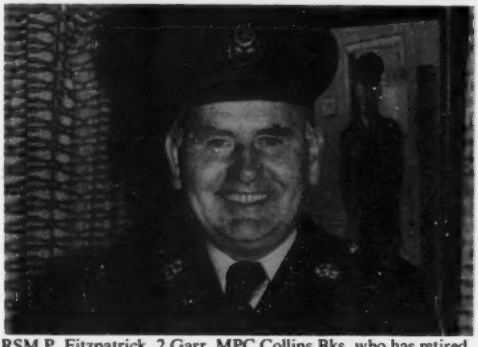
NAVAL SERVICE

At the Mass to commemorate Seamen lost between 1939-45 were L. to R: Capt. B. Forde, Vice President Irish Association of Master Mariners; Ensign R. Lewis, 1 Coy Slua Muiri; Lt. N. J. Quillinan, N.S., E.O.L.E. Aoife and Col. A. T. Lawlor, President Maritime Institute. (Photo: Pat Sweeney)

Graduates from the 50th Ambulance training course at St. James Hospital, Dublin photographed with (right) RSM F. Fagan, AMC. From left: Ptes. E. Halford and C. Kavanagh, C. Comd.; ASBA P. Trill, N.S.; Sgt. N. Greene, Galway and Pte. B. Fisher, Collins Bks. Cork. (Photo: Lensmen)

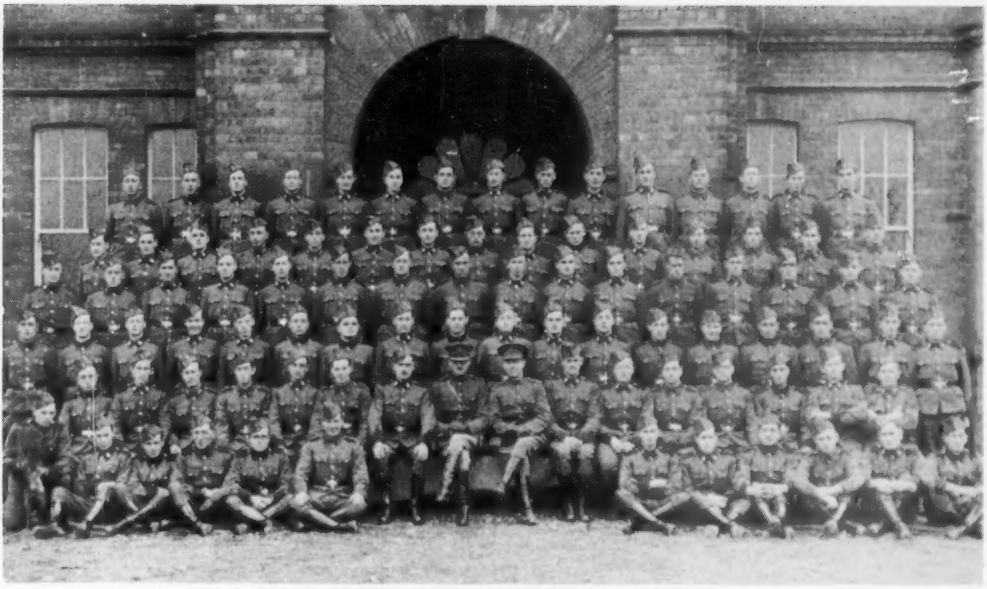


General Erskine on a visit to 46 Inf. Bn. UNIFIL with Lt. Dan Murphy, W. Comd. (Photo: Lt. L. Clancy)



RSM P. Fitzpatrick, 2 Garr. MPC Collins Bks. who has retired after 40 years service. (Photo: Cpl. J. Berigan)

On the 6th. Inf. Bn. Ranger Course were from L. to R. Pts. Sammon, Gilligan, Duffy, Dunican, Cpl. Caheny, Lt. O'Leary, Cpl. Browne, Ptes. McCormack, Fallon, McKinley. Back: Cpl. Bernes, Sgt. Cleary, Ptes. Flynn, Reilly, O'Brien, Newcombe, Byrne, McDonagh, Kavanagh, O'Donnell, Creevy, Maher, Cpl. Wall. (Photo: Sgt. P. Cooley)



POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' COURSE - 1939/1940

This was the last course for Potential Volunteer Officers conducted at the Military College. It was followed by Temporary Officers' Courses.

The only students that I can identify are, reading from left to right: **Ground**: 4. Martin Dolan, 8. Paddy Murray, 9. Noel McManus. **1st Row**: 3. Joe O'Neill, 5. S. Quilley, 7. J. Wallace, 10. Leo Gibson, 11. Lionel Booth, 12. P. Crohan, 16. Martin McEvoy. **2nd Row**: 2. Bill Ahern, 3. W. R. Ellis (now Judge), 8. Paddy Corbett, 12. J. Farrelly. **3rd Row**: 14. M. O'Brien, 15. "Jet" Pierce. **4th Row**: 3. Bill Hoyne, 4. Pat Nulty, 10. J. Dillon. **5th Row**: 4. Patsy Kennedy.

Can any reader recognise the other students?

Nearly all the class were drawn from the Regiment of Pearse with a few from the Infantry, mostly the 11th (Dublin) Infantry Battalion thrown in for good measure.

The Regular Officers were, of course the College Commandant, Major-General Hugo MacNeill and Comdt. Paddy Berry.

John Meehan Captain (Retd.)

Missile d'Infanterie Leger Anti-Tank and is made jointly by Aerospatiale of France and Messerschmitt of West Germany. Despite its French/German origins and Italian name, the *Irish Independent* headline claimed "OUR ROCKETS CAN HIT A CARD TABLE A MILE AWAY". So don't play poker in COOLMOONEY. The *Independent* said 'the first Army all-action rocket experts showed that they had entered the missile age'.

Gerry McMorrow of the *Irish Press* in his report revealed that the system is so simple 'that with only two weeks training the gunners were able to place all the missiles on target for the Army top brass. Artillery School instructor Capt. Ray Quinn declared it was almost impossible to miss a target using the weapon'. We bet he said that AFTER the demonstration.

For the *Irish Times* Peter Thersfield had a series of very dramatic photos with two close-ups of the new arrival.

The next problem will be to cut the wire and get it away from the gunners.

War & Peace

'Old battle fields are strange places. There has only been a village with its little street, its church, its pothouse, a few cottages in the midst of gardens, hedges of hawthorn and elders, a blacksmith's forge, and a graveyard full of mounds and nettles - close by, perhaps, there is a river, or a road leads to a great city or mighty fortress.

One day there comes a vast crowd of men and horses, the church and the cottages are full of soldiers, guns roll through the narrow street, horses are picketed in the gardens, and the fields around are black by day and red by night with the figures and fires of an army; the villagers fly from their homes, the walls are loopholed, garden hedges are cut through, and the black muzzles of great guns frown behind red earthworks.

All at once these mouths speak, the horses charge, shell and shot crash through the red tiles, bullets whistle and ping through hedgerow and orchard, the graveyard has more dead upon its surface than below, men slaughter each other in passages and outhouses, roofs are on fire, blood is on the pavement, wounded men crave water from the duck-pond, for the battle is being fought, and to win, or keep this village, is to win, or keep a kingdom; no one ever heard of it before, but henceforth history will have its name; golden letters will flaunt it upon silken standards, a prince or a duke will take his title from it, maps will mark it with crossed swords, and to-morrow when its people come out from their hiding-places, and seek their home again, they will find them ruined, blood-stained, but famous.'

From **The Light of the West** by Lieut. Gen. The Right Hon. Sir W. Butler G.C.B.

DEFENCE FORCES CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS 1979

Athletics

100 metres	Lt. G. Delaney, Curragh Comd.
200 metres	Lt. G. Delaney, Curragh Comd.
400 metres	Cpl. P. O'Reilly, Southern Comd.
800 metres	Gnr. B. Downey, Curragh Comd.
1500 metres	Gnr. B. Downey, Curragh Comd.
5000 metres	Cpl. P. Murphy, Curragh Comd.
110 metres Hurdles	Cdt. M. McLoughlin, Naval Service
Long Jump	Pte. J. Carlin, Western Comd.
Triple Jump	Cdt. M. McLoughlin, Naval Service
High Jump	Pte. J. Carlin, Western Comd.
Pole Vault	Cdt. J. O'Sullivan, Curragh Comd.
Discus	Pte. J. Carlin, Western Comd.
Javelin	Cdt. B. Healy, Curragh Comd.
Shot	Comdt. T. Egar, Curragh Comd.
Hammer	Lt. W. McGrath, Curragh Comd.
Relay	Curragh Comd.
Tug-o-War (Senior & Junior)	Southern Comd.
Gen. R. Mulcahy Trophy (Best Athlete)	Pte. J. Carlin, Western Command
Perpetual Challenge Trophy (Best Unit)	Curragh Comd.

Cross Country

Senior Individual	Pte. P. Keane, Curragh Comd.
Senior Team	Eastern Comd.

Pitch & Putt

Senior	A/M J. Maguire, Air Corps.
Inter	Gnr. P. Roche, Western Comd.
Junior	Cpl. P. Higgins, Western Comd.

Orienteering

Individual	Capt. W. Young, Military College
Team	3 Inf. Bn. "A", Curragh Comd.
3000 metres Walk Race	Capt. B. O'Callaghan, Eastern Com

Golf

Individual	Comdt. M. Tallon, Western Comd.
Team	Western Comd.

Badminton

Singles	Lt. T. Healy, W. Comd.
Doubles	Lt. T. Healy & Lt. R. Dooley, W. Comd.
Team	Eastern Comd.

Novice Cross Country

Individual	Sgm. J. Rabbitte, Eastern Comd.
Team	Eastern Command

Rugby Curragh Comd.

Handball

Senior SBD	Pte. S. Slattery & Pte. J. Davin, S. Comd.
Senior SBS	Cpl. P. O'Reilly, Curragh Comd.
Junior SBD	Cpl. C. Norris & Pte. J. Kearney, S. Comd.
Junior SBS	Sgt. J. Byrne, Western Comd.
Novice SBD	Pte. P. McCarthy & Pte. J. Hurley, W. Comd.
Novice SBS	Pte. S. Dyer, Southern Comd.
Hurling	Eastern Comd.
Gaelic Football	Eastern Comd.
Medical Services Cup	HQ Eastern Comd.
Chaplains Cup	30 Inf. Bn., Curragh Comd.

Association Football

Inter Comd.	Southern Comd.
Cunningham Cup	5 Inf. Bn., Eastern Comd.
Volleyball	2 Gnr. AOC, Eastern Comd.

Canoeing

K.1	Capt. D. Collins, Eastern Comd.
Touring	C/S M. Murphy, Curragh Comd.
Slalom	Lt. F. O'Reilly, Eastern Comd.
Team	Eastern Comd.

Angling

Shore	Comdt. A. O'Sullivan, Eastern Comd
Sea	CPO G. Jeffors, Naval Service
Team	Naval Service

Novice Boxing

Light Fly	Pte. M. Maguire, Eastern Comd.
Fly	Pte. A. Gayson, Curragh Comd.
Bantam	Pte. F. Coleman, Southern Comd.
Feather	Pte. G. Lewis, Southern Comd.
Light	Pte. N. Sheridan, Curragh Comd.
Light Welter	Gnr. M. Gavin, Western Comd.
Welter	Pte. S. Walsh, Southern Comd.
Light Middle	Pte. M. DeLoughrey, Southern Comd
Middle	Gnr. G. De Clier, Southern Comd.
Light Heavy	Pte. J. Kavanagh, Eastern Comd.
Heavy	Pte. B. Kelly, Southern Comd.

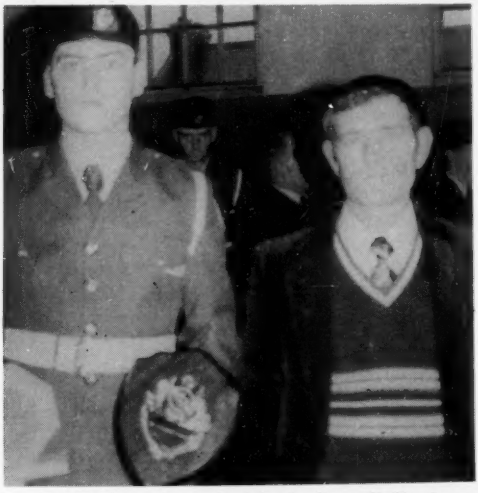
(Continued from page 14)

Kilkee was base for the final two days and it was from there that the party dived Healy's Island on the second day. Healy's Island is about five miles south of Kilkee in the direction of Loop Head and again is diveable for a few weeks of the year only. While it is only a few hundred yards off shore it is quite inaccessable from the immediate shore line because of the high cliffs and lack of inlets. What makes this small island (only some 50 meters across) very special to the diver, as opposed to many hundreds of other west coast islands, is that a submarine cave runs right through from one side to the other at a depth just short of 20 meters and can be negotiated in safety by properly equipped and experienced divers. On this occasion, because of some difficulty in finding the entrance, the dive groups entered the cave and proceeded part of the way before returning. Enough, however, to whet the appetite for a return visit.

The week ended with a dinner on the final night followed by informal festivities and on Friday morning nineteen weary divers returned to home stations. Ambitious plans are already afoot for next year's expedition but whatever the venue it is unlikely to surpass the locations visited by all who were fortunate enough to dive from Inisheer to Healy's Island with the Army Sub-Aqua Group of 1979.

SOUTHERN COMMAND

Cpl. P. Cosgrove (right)who retired from the CTD after 21 years service with Sgt. Maj. B. Lennon & C.S. Murphy. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey)



Pte. D. O'Sullivan who received the An Cosantóir Trophy as Best Recruit in his platoon with his father ex-Sgt. D. O'Sullivan at Collins Bks. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey.)

Pte. D. Goggins who recently passed out at Collins Bks. with his parents. His father is an ex-member of the 4th Bn. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey.)

Sgt. E. O'Sullivan who retired after 21 years with Comdt. P. J. Kelly, O.C., CT Depot. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey.)

Capt. Con O'Brien who has recently been appointed conductor of the S.Comd. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey.)

(Continued from page 32)

at an earlier time. They know too much about modern war to think so now. Rothenberg says that the results were "expressed in a high ratio of road and training accidents, low standards of dress, building and vehicle maintenance" and in the disappearance of "the egalitarianism and self-discipline" of the 1960s. We must remember that everything is comparative. The report of the State Comptroller on the 1978 "Operation Litani" made some extraordinary revelations. But these reports are an annual affair - potent instruments for highlighting abuses and securing reforms. It is not the Israeli way to sweep abuses under the carpet - they prefer to drag them out, wash them in public and beat each other over the head with them - if one may confuse the metaphors. Prof. Rothenberg's judgement is that "it is difficult to impose formal discipline on a citizen army, largely reservist. Combat spirit remains high, though dress and maintenance standards leave much to be desired. However, especially for weapons systems, they appear to be rather higher than those in first-line formations of any other Western countries". Only war will show whether this is good enough.

E. D. Doyle

THE FIRST TRANSPORT BADGE?

I recently purchased the badge shown above and was curious as to what exactly it was. Some observant readers may recognise it as the current "Q" Badge. However, as it is a brass badge I, and most people to whom I showed it, assumed it to be a sleeve rank badge of a Quartermaster.

However, in the course of correspondence with Mr. D. McCarron of Buckinghamshire I was given a reference to the *Irish Independent* of October 1922. A visit to the National Library to look up the paper for that month followed, and on page three of the issue for 27th October, a drawing of the badge, along with some photos of personnel appears. It is described in the caption as a 'badge worn by Officers in charge of the Irish National Army Transport Service'.

In the issue of 26th October we read that Gormanston Camp had been taken over by the Service only five weeks earlier, while we are told in *An Cosantoir* of June 1975 that the first activities of what was to be the S & T Corps took place in January of 1922. Presumably the badge was introduced sometime between these two dates. I am also told that a Hallmarked silver version existed in GHQ at one time, and may have been worn by Major C. Saurin as Staff Officer Q2, QMG's Branch, He is credited in the above *Cosantoir* with designing the present Corps badge, and he is not wearing collar badges in the photo in that issue.

Can any readers throw any light on this? Could the silver one have been a master copy, or a dress version? When did these badges cease to be worn? Did their wear ever extend to other ranks? What of its evolution from Transport badge to "Q" badge? Does any data exist as to who designed the "Q" badge? Did he also design this one, or simply utilize a design that was obselete in its original role?

I feel that the use of this particular badge, with the prominent "Q" and the wheel does indicate that even at that early stage the members of the Service felt that Supply and Transport were linked.

As a collector of Irish Militaria I would greatly appreciate any information on, or articles of, uniforms and accessories, especially relating to the Chemical Corps of the Emergency period.

Cpl. F. E. Meier,
Air Sq. Sigs.,
Casement Aerodrome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flat 34, Temple Hill,
Terenure Rd. W, Dublin 6.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir

Dear Sir,

In your December issue, you mentioned how does O.N.E. stand today. I am glad to say that our organisation has improved immensely over the past twelve months, this has come about by great attention from Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan, Chief of Staff and Maj. Gen. W. Carroll, Adjutant General. Today we have an Officer and an N.C.O. liaisoned to O.N.E. in every Military Barracks. In Dublin City we have five branches in Barracks, serving soldiers are eligible to join as honorary members until they retire from the Forces. I may add that we now get enquiries from many firms looking for ex-soldiers, and have placed a number in good positions. In fact I find today that our Army is held in great esteem by the people hence the benefit accruing for ex-servicemen. I would like to see an ex-servicemens office in a Dublin Barracks, where firms could ring when they want men, thus ensuring that when men leave the Army, there is always a good position for them in civy life. I am an active member of O.N.E. for the past 30 years.

T. H. P. McCormack, Capt.
Member of National Executive & Director of Ceremonial, O.N.E.
Executive member of the ABF.

Cathal Brugha Bks.
Dublin 6.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

The Four Courts Shelling

Dear Sir,

The very interesting article on the Four Courts shelling in 1922 by Col. Harrington (Nov. 1979) poses a less interesting question.

The late M. G. Emmett Dalton in his last R.T.E. interview said a shell fell in the grounds of Kilmainham as he was entering to explain a similar occurence some hours before, to the British Commander of the Forces, Irish Command, who had thought (momentarily) that the Irish were turning the borrowed British 18 pounders on themselves.

Dalton explained rather apologetically that the inexperienced gunner (possibly when Capt. Peadar McMahonwas looking the other way) was shooting his gun at a sniper on the roof or dome of the Four Courts from Mary's Abbey noerth of the Liffey. What happened then was "the fly moved" , the shell missed the dome, overflew west to Kilmainham and landed in the grounds of "Government House" to the annoyance of the British G. O. C.

So the question is were those errant shells fired by the Mary's Abbey gun (which "did not fire operationally", so maybe it fired a few ranging shots and then decided to call it a day); or did Col. Tony Lawlor have an unusual abberation and kick the trail of the Winetavern St. gun; or did the shells ricochet off something; or was Emmett Dalton pulling the long bow (no, not shooting arrows)?

Patrick D. O'Donnell, Comdt.

OBITUARY

CAPTAIN F. F. GARVEY

After a long and painful illness borne with great courage, Fred Garvey passed away on the 4th July. He was in his middle fifties.

Soldier, Sportsman, Businessman, Fred was all these but above all, a great family man and a true friend.

Fred, a native of Kilkenny City joined the Army in 1940 straight from school and was posted to the Corps of Engineers, Curragh Camp. Having completed an NCO course, he was promoted Corporal but within a very short time he was commissioned as a Temporary Officer and posted to the Civil Defence Section of the Corps of Engineers.

He took charge of Buckingham Street Fire Station and had some wonderful yarns about his experiences with the Dubliners, a real test for one hardly out of his teens.

In 1943 he entered the Cadet School and was commissioned in 1945 and posted as Assistant Adjutant, CTD Depot, Curragh.

On promotion to Captain he returned to the Corps of Engineers as Depot Quartermaster. In the early fifties he was transferred to the Purchasing Section, Quartermaster General's Branch.

During his service in the QMG's Branch, he looked after, in a full time capacity the administration of the McKee Park housing scheme. The architect was Maurice Shanahan and between them they made an outstanding success of the first direct labour building scheme undertaken by the Army.

Fred was a great sportsman. Hurling, Tennis and Rugby all came easy to him.

He was an exceptionally fine tennis player, winning the Army championship on several occasions during the period the Army had a number of first class tennis players. His encounters with Joey Kenny are something to remember.

Fred was good enough to play First Class Tennis in the Dublin League with Elm Park and helped them to win the Class 1 League on several occasions.

At Rugby he was a courageous fullback with the Curragh and his playing days over became a rabid supporter of the Irish team, never missing an International match at home or abroad right up to the end.

A strong supporter of the Kilkenny hurling team, a visit to Croke Park with him was an experience, nobody including the referee was free from his very vocal admonishment and a win by Kilkenny was always celebrated in Fred's notable style.

Fred retired from the ARmy around 1959 to enter the Fruit business, in this trade he was an outstanding success, travelling all over the world in the interests of his firm, Shamrock Fruit Ltd. of which firm he was a Director at the time of his death.

The attendance at his funeral, representing all the facets of his varied career was a tribute to his ability to hold the respect and affection of his friends and business colleagues.

The Army, Sporting organisations and Business friends attended in great numbers and must have given great consolation to his family.

To his widow, Mary, a former member of the Army Nursing Service and his family, our condolences. His like shall not pass our way again.

May he rest in peace.

Our friends go with us as we go
Down the long path where Beauty wends,
Where all we love forgathers, so
why should fear to join our friends?

J. M.

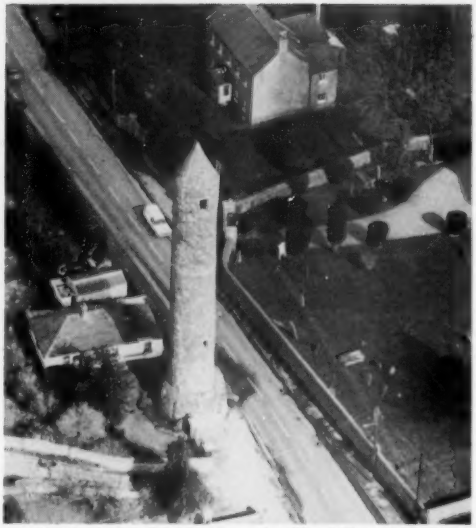
Sports Spectacular

An Army Stand is being arranged for the **Cospoir** sponsored National Sports Show at the R.D.S. from 17-22 February. Demonstrations of Gymnastics, Sub aqua and other sports will be given by Military personnel.

D.F.A.A. Fixtures - February

Basketball	Inter Comd.	13/14 Feb.	Cork
Soccer	Inter Comd.	1st Round C. Comd.vS. Comd. 27 Feb.	N.S.vW. Comd.

BOOK REVIEWS



Clondalkin Round Tower from the **Round Towers** by G. L. Barrow, Academy Press - £15 reviewed in last month's issue of *An Cosantoir*. (Air Corps photo)

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE IRISH PEOPLE. Kenneth Neill. Gill and Macmillan. £9.

This new approach to our history is written by a graduate of Yale and TCD who has already several books to his credit. He writes easily, and the intricacies of life for the last nine thousand years on this island are clearly sifted through in a concise fashion. From the appearance of man, in Ulster, about 7,000 BC to the debasement of man in the same province to-day the author endeavours to bring modern research to bear on his findings.

The first five chapters deal with the period from prehistory to 1790, and the remaining nine bring the story up to date with Mr. Neill's observations on the present and future state of the nation. He places the beginning of the Ulster troubles in the 17th century. 'Since the first life was taken in 1969, over two thousand people have been killed in this unique religious war between Christians. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all is that it is no longer terribly important which flag flies over Ulster. During the 1970's the most violent decade in the provinces turbulent history, Ireland and Britain have drawn closer together than at any time since independence . . . In terms of culture as well as economics, Ireland is still very much 'John Bull's Other Island'. It is estimated that on any given evening only one out of every five Dublin television sets is turned to RTE: the rest are tuned to British Stations.' These depressing findings might ask one to search for a reason for the last thousand years of history! An amusing anecdote about our neutrality is told. . . . the comment of the Dublin-born navigator of an All-Irish crew of a British bomber dodging anti-aircraft fire over Berlin: "Thank God Dev's kept us out of all this."

The chapters on emigration, and on the success of the Irish abroad are full of interest, and to find Jimmy O'Dea sharing a page with the Army, in the old German-style helmet, and with Frank Ryan in Spain, gives some idea of the coverage attempted.

The size of the book 11¼" x 8½" puts it out of the range of the school bag, and the 400 photographs, including 8 pages in good colour, prove that this general history is for all of us. A copy brought along with the baggage to UNIFIL should help to pass many an evening, as well as being useful in answering tricky questions from other nationalities.

O. T.

STRATEGY AND ETHNOCENTRISM. Ken Booth. Croom Helm. £10.50.

Ken Booth defines ethocentrism as a view of things in which one's own group is the centre of everything, and all others are scaled and rated with reference to it; where groups tend to privilege their own conceptual systems, and so distort their picture of what other groups may actually be doing; as an inability of an individual or group to see the world through the eyes of a different national or ethnic group. The author, who is a lecturer in International Politics at the University of Wales, contends, as his primary thesis, that cultural distortions, particularly ethnocentrism, are important because the reality of our strategic world is inextricably bound up with our manner of conceiving it.

Essentially, the book is a consciousness-raising exercise to open the first examination of the relationship between strategy and ethnocentrism. Although ethnocentrism could be described as the "condition of strategy", strategists as a professional body have not previously concerned themselves with the problem.

In the light of this fresh examination new attitudes are compounded to many current international political issues; NATO, Middle East Crises, Use of Force, Detente, Superpower Arms Race, Soviet Arms Build Up, and SALT.

Studies have shown that substantive experts on a policy area are usually in relatively junior positions in the hierarchy, while the most senior players are selected for reasons other than their substantive expertise and previous professional training: "This leads to the perverse result that, as an issue is perceived to be increasingly critical, it passes from the scrutiny of the experts up to politically appointed generalists." The agreement is for generalists with substantive expertise.

Strategy has long been the domain of the military man. The author would contend that ethnocentric attitudes are most prevelent in the autocratic personality; a personality type which can be fostered in a military system. The unsavory paradox would seem to be that the military profession as a body can no longer hold exclusive rights to strategy. Governments, like individuals, have great expectations of reasonable behaviour from those they think are like themselves. They will naturally expect them to see the world in the same way and to behave sensibly, which in political practice does not mean behaving with good sense; but rather means behaving "like me" or in "accordance with my wishes". France and the U.S., as members of NATO in the 1960's illustrated the difficulty which two allies can have in understanding each other's position behind the different strategic conceptions was a mental blockage which seemed to prevent admission of any reasonableness in the other's viewpoint. France finally broke with the integrated military structure of NATO.

Generally, after the 1967 war, the Israelis failed to appreciate the importance to the Egyptians of a psychological as well as a military recovery. A costly war of attrition had to be endured, not only for political and strategic reasons but also for psychological reassurance.

Observers who could not appreciate and feel this sense of Arab humiliation could not begin to predict how those who did experience it might behave. Peace and Goodwill may have been an earlier western conception of detente, but Soviet spokesmen have never hidden the fact that their own conception of the Superpower Relationships is one of "Peace and Illwill". The West might hesitate before criticising the Soviet Union for 'Betrayal' or 'bad faith'.

From the Soviet viewpoint there is nothing inconsistent or hypocritical in intensifying the idealogical struggle or in supporting national liberation struggles in times of detente. They can however be justly criticised for having clearly failed to live up to the specific solemn undertakings of the Human Rights provisions of Helsinki in 1975.

Because of its evident importance, strategy is an area of public life which is too important to be left in the hands or minds of any narrow professional group or subgroup, with its own inertia, conventional convictions, parochial priorities, biases and limited horizons. Sixty years ago we learned that war was too serious a matter to be left to the generals. In the last fifteen years strategists have come to believe that peace is too precious to be left to the peace-researchers. It is now well past the time that they realise that strategy is too significant to be left to the strategists.

Booth is realistic enough to conclude that overcoming ethnocentrism will not remove all conflicts or give instant peace, but it might increase the possibility that nations will look for positive and co-operative solutions to their difficulties.

There is a lot we **could** learn from this exercise in "consciousness raising", the question is **can** we?

D. O'L.

SECRET INTELLIGENCE IN THE 20th CENTURY. Constantine Fitzgibbon. Panther Paperback. £1.95.

This interesting book is in fact mainly devoted to the subject of Secret Intelligence up to the end of World War II. The author's direct involvement in the field of intelligence ended at that stage (he served as an intelligence officer with the Americans during the war) and his comments thereafter are more general though no less interesting.

The main protagonists in this secret war are the great powers, Britain, USA, USSR, Germany, France and to a lesser extent Japan. Mr. Fitzgibbon begins by examining the development of intelligence organisations in each of the great powers during the late 19th and early 20th century. Britain was the first country to recognise the importance of intelligence and did so from the time of Walsingham, while during the years of the British Empire the policy of "splendid isolation" necessitated an efficient intelligence organisation. In the USA the development of a reliable intelligence organisation was and is still hindered by traditional American openess and also it would appear as a result of a division of responsibility between the CIA and FBI, which lacks in flexibility. In Russia the early intelligence organisations were used by the Czar to spy on his own subjects rather than abroad.

The efficiency of the various organisations was put to the test during the World Wars and here it would seem that British Intelligence proved its worth in achieving a marked superiority over its German counterpart. For those of us who are military men it is interesting to read that the British achieved much of their success through a policy of incorporating many of the greatest civilian brains in the country into this Intelligence organisation. The Germans failed to use their best men and paid the price in both World Wars.

M. A.

WILD FLOWERS: A Photographic Guide. Desmond and Marjorie Parish. Blandford Press. £4.95.

This splendidly produced little book is aimed at the botanist who travels in Europe, and here at home, to see the rare and beautiful wild flowers of the various habitats. In the Introduction Ms. Parish says that the book is especially for those who, like herself and her husband, have searched out and identified flowers not alone in the countryside, but in museums and in the lecture hall. A word of warning is added: 'This earth still has space for its abundant and marvellous life, but the responsibility of keeping the delicate balance for future generations now rests largely on the shoulders of mankind.' Apt words indeed for those of us stationed near the Curragh Plains, and the very special, but threatened Pollardstown Fen.

Ninety five of the Europe's approximate number of seventeen thousand wild-flower plants are illustrated here in excellent colour photographs by Desmond Parish. Each plate has a description, flowering-time, habitat and points of interest. Irish flowers shown include the Foxglove, Grass of Parnassus, Bog Rosemary, Mountain Avens - from the Burren, as is the lovely Irish Saxifrage.

T. O'C.

"BEAM" The Journal of the Irish Lighthouse Service Vol. II, No. 1.

This house magazine, now in its tenth year of publication is a mine of information regarding the activities of the personnel of the Irish Lighthouse Service.

Captain H. N. Greenlee writing on "The New Buoyage System", explains in a short article the work involved for the Service in changing the buoyage system around this island to

comply with new international agreements. In all 70 buoys have to change either, shape, colour, character of light, fog signal or name, a considerable feat which can only be done in the spring and summer months. The work will be completed by 1981.

Medal collectors will find interest in J. F. Morton's account of "The Eddystone Lighthouse Medal" which was issued in 1757 to workers engaged in building the Eddystone Lighthouse. It was an identification disc to protect them from being 'Press ganged" into service in the Royal Navy. Examples can be seen in Plymouth Museum and the National Maritime Museum.

Frank Forde.

"THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SHIPS, BOATS, VESSELS and other water-borne CRAFT" Graham Blackburn. John Murray. £7.95.

Do you know the difference between a brig and a barquetine, an Arab dhow and a Chinese junk, a Hansa cog or a Blackwall frigate? If not this 450 page book should be on your bookshelf for it has over 600 line drawings of every type of craft ever launched from arks to galleys, container ships to hydro-foils.

A 46 page glossary explains the various sails and nautical terms used in the illustrated section and again, line drawings show the difference, for example, between a clinker and carvel built boat.

Irish interest is catered for by the inclusion of a Galway hooker (which we are told was introduced into New England about 1857) and a currach, sadly no illustration of it. Missing is a Wexford cot used until about 50 years ago for cargo carrying on the river Slaney.

Frank Forde.

THE BIORHYTHM DECISION MAKER AND GUIDE. Mark Shapp and Alan Kahn. Grosset and Dunlap, New York. Blandford Press. £3.50.

It has been long established that each person is subject to two bodily cycles, an emotional one of 28 days and a physical one of 23 days, which, from birth, continue throughout life. The charting of these cycles, in conjunction with ones birth-day and year, and the present (or past) has now been refined into a simple sliding scale on which can be read the days on which one can experience a good day, a bad day or a day of caution. Using the chart a person can predict which days in any month will be those on which they are most likely to be at their best, and so to make decisions, win shooting competitions etc. The booklet, which includes a chart, claims that 'Japan has taken biorhythm most seriously. More than five thousand Japanese companies chart their employees' biorhythm in order to forsee critical days and thereby reduce accidents and increase productivity'. Some European and American firms also use it.

When this reviewer set his own charts the days past of the month which came up bad did not stick in memory, but with an eye to the future, one could be more perceptive. However, when that chart was set for a woman it did not prove promising; all her best days came during the very period of the month when she was experiencing her worst and so she would not take the matter seriously.

The birthdays of over 2000 celebrities, including sport and film stars, are given so that you can keep check on their possibilities. After all, five thousand Japanese firms can't be wrong!

J. W.

ADVENTURES WITH PHYSICS. Tom Duncan. John Murray. £2.95.

This book is suitable for those who don't know much about physics, and would like to learn more about the subject. It gives the basic ideas which are easy to understand. There are many interesting tricks to try and models to make. The book tells you how many things you may have wondered about are done. An example of this are 'tricks with force'. This explains how a half filled bucket of water can be swung around in a vertical circle without the water spilling. It also shows how a walnut can be broken without a nutcracker. This is done by pressing two walnuts together. The pressure breaks one of the walnuts. This book is well worth the £2.95 to anyone who would be interested.

S. C.

"WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS" John Murray. Dervla Murphy. £6.95.

Dervla Murphy's autobiography at best gives us a glimpse of the character and personality of a woman who at the age of 31 took off on her bicycle to India and so started her career as a writer of travel books which have become best sellers.

An only child, Dervla spent a happy and self-centred childhood with a Librarian father with whom she could not communicate and a mother of such a strong personality that even when she became a complete cripple from arthritis, when Dervla was 3 years old, she ruled the house totally, training in one maid after another in an effort to keep the house going. Although Dervla adored her mother this strong personality in later years nearly destroyed her, and certainly would have destroyed anyone less adaptable, resilient and self sufficient.

She describes her early years spent in her beloved Lismore where she still lives, with such love and warmth as to make one want to visit the place at the earliest opportunity.

I particularly enjoyed reading her description of her relatives on both sides. Her grandfather collected books with such an obsession that there was little room in the house for "ordinary" living. On one occasion when sent out to buy himself a pair of everyday trousers he returned having sold his Sunday best and, together with the money for the new pair, bought a ten-volume edition of the "History of the Italian Republic". Her Grandmother was an obsessional bridge player and frequently played until 7 a.m!

Her father and aunt were imprisoned, and letters from her grandfather to his son makes very interesting reading during the troubled times.

At the age of 14 years Dervla decided that she must stay at home to look after her mother. Thus started a domination which was to last until Dervla was 30. When her father died her mother moved to a Dublin nursing home and threatened to sell the family home in Lismore. Dervla had already had one breakdown, was facing another so it was at this point that she decided, for her own sake, to break her mother's hold and with her bike "Roz", her trusty steed for all her journeys, she took off for Germany to stay and work with friends. Two months later her mother relented and Dervla returned to Lismore, and her mother died a year later.

Typically Dervla, who not once decended to self-pity, viewed what she had been through 'at the time of their happening were apparently destructive but in their enduring results were constructive and tempering. I learned a lesson in humility that could not have been taught to anyone of my arrogant nature by less violent means!' And so, at the age of 31, on "Roz", - with the minimum amount of money she realised a life long ambition and cycled her way to India.

A very interesting story, well worth reading.

D. F.

STRANGE TO RELATE. Book 2. Melvin Harris. Granada. 66p.

This book is based on the BBC Radio 4 series 'Strange to Relate!' Therefore many people will already have heard some of these interesting stories. All of these 16 stories are strange and some of them are amusing e.g. 'The bustle at Bernors St.' This is about a quiet London street in 1809 which suddenly became the most talked about street in the city.

Early one morning a widow, Mrs. Tottingham was aroused from her sleep by a man delivering coal. As she argued with him saying she didn't order any coal, a furniture van pulled up and men began unloading furniture. After that came a hearse, two doctors, a midwife, a dentist, and carts with beer, meat, vegetables, carpets, potatoes and an organ. Many more tradesmen came and then, an army of servants, cooks, butlers, housemaids, footmen, and nurses. Then came the Lord Mayor of London, The Duke of Gloucester and other very important people. Of course poor Mrs. Tottingham had sent for none of these people. It was in fact the work of a joker who had been in the quiet street some days before and had made a bet with a friend that he would make it the most talked about street in London. As you can guess, he won his bet.

This book is fascinating to read and well worth the 66p.

S. C.

HOME BEFORE NIGHT. Hugh Leonard. Andre Deutsch. £5.25.

Hugh Leonard has established himself as a playright of substance while his newspaper columns have shown him as satirical and cynical, though often exposing national faults as relentlessly as a seismograph. The man behind the plays (with the exception of his two semi-biographical ones, *Da* and *A life*) and the newspaper commentaries did not always emerge as a particularly warm or attractive person. His gift with words might be partly credited to his days at the Presentation Brothers' School when 'being useless at fighting, I eventually learned to armour myself by cultivating a skill at deadly insult, usually and necessarily delivered as a Parthian shot.' However, with the appearance of *Da*, and now his latest play and biography, he has emerged as a most sensitive and compassionate observer of life.

His adoptive parents have been rewarded with a splendid memorial, the author's love for them conquering his mother's contrariness and his father's timidity. With humour the author describes his adoption, schooldays and first employment, painting vivid pictures of relations and friends. Though the story might have been told with bitterness and envy, Mr. Leonard has chosen wit and love, thus making the narrative all the more memorable.

Unlike many successful people the author does not pretend to forget his background; in fact he has returned to live in his native place, showing the same kind of courage which inspired him to srite this compassionate story.

M. E.

WARRIOR IN BRONZE. George Shipway. Granada. £1.04.

Agamemnon is the hero of this robust scamper through the Elysian fields; from boyhood to maturity his extraordinary story is followed, and the heroes and villians of ancient Greece are his everyday companions. Son of Mycenae, the atmosphere of this magical city is wonderfully evoked, as is that of the neighbouring cities, - Argos, Tiryns, Rhipe, Thebes and Megara. Dionysus, Atreus, Hercules and Menelaus, not to mention the ladies Aerope, Pelopia, Clytemnaistra and Iphigenia, are the characters that jostle for attention in the exciting narrative. This is a story for anyone who likes adventure, but especially for those who may have sighted the dry stones of Mycenae and the dead oracle of Delphi. Perhaps this is what it was like in those far off days (c. 1300 BC) when the world was smaller, but the lust for power no less, and the ways of attaining it no worse than now. Though, maybe, a bit more obvious. Mr. Shipway has already written many bestsellers including *The Chilian Club* and *The Paladain*; not a bad record for a man who seems to have written his first book at the age of 58, after he had retired from a life spent in the Indian Cavalry and in teaching.

C. C.

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE ANIMALS. Terry Murphy. Paddington Press Ltd. £4.95

Dublin Zoo has been the favourite place of countless children over many generations; when they grow to adulthood they retain fond memories of their visits to the Zoo, and soon they return to share their happiness with a new generation. Three generations of our family have regularly visited there together, with a member of the older and of the younger showing special interest. Grandfather was a Member, and himself successfully bred **ornamenttal pheasants and other birds. When he published a book** on the subject the author of this fine new book wrote an **Introduction** for him; and when he finally retired from keeping his own birds the zoo made a home for his Brent Geese. The boy from the younger generation had a special love for animals, and spent many happy summers as a volunteer working in the Pet's Corner with the splendid Miss Cragie.

With this special love for the zoo it is not surprising that I welcome this book wholeheartedly. For thirty years Terry Murphy has devoted his life to his work, making our zoo into one of the finest in the world; his endeavours to make the animals happy in their surroundings have been successful, and visitors must agree that the unhappy animals seen in some other zoos are never encountered in Dublin.

Dealing with baby animals is a special talent on the part of the Murphy's and their dedicated staff, and recapturing those that manage to escape for a little while provides amusing stories. A hundred black and white photographs, not all good, illustrate the text.

J. F.

ANIMALS AND THEIR WORLD. Mary Parker Buckles. Blandford Press. £8.95.

Fans of David Attenborough will be familiar with some of the extraordinary mammals described in this beautifully produced volume. The Proboscis Monkey, for example, provides 'one of the most striking examples of sexual dimorphism in the animal kingdom - mature males have fleshy noses so enormous that they may occasionally get in the way when the monkeys eat! More homely exotica such as the Cavy or Guinea Pig has, in its native South America, become such a pest that it has ravaged grasslands; but it is also a useful supplement to the natives diet, and when the spaniards first brought the little Pigs home they were considered a delicacy also. The Pine Martin (now on the **increase here) dines on squirrels, mice, fish and even deer. In** attacking larger animals they go for the carotid artery.

As this book was first published in America it is not surprising to find some of the animals as being 'Old World' - with the European badger being twice the size of that in the 'New World'. The edible dormouse becomes very fat in preparation for its months of dormancy, and this is what made it so tasty, even in ancient Rome.

The Photographs, both colour and black and white, are first class. A delightful female opossum, with her young on her back, is balanced on a tree stump; musk oxen in the snow are worthy of an artists brush. The text is in eight sections, dividing the mammals described in relation to the climatic zone in which they live - such as the desert, the oceans, rain forests etc. The introduction is clear in its description of the animals and their ecology, with charts and tables. An Index concludes this good buy - in fact it is surprising how fine a book can be available at this price.

J. F.

FLYING BUCCANEERS The Illustrated Story of Kenny's Fifth Air Force. Steve Birdsall. David & Charles. £7.95.

The war in the Pacific is not as familiar to those of us on this side of the world as the conflict that took place nearer home, in the European theatre. It wasn't all "goodies" and "baddies" as the films would have us believe and the author of this book shows the war for what it was - a bloody, savage, no-quarter given affair. Ruthlessness on both sides was the order of the day. Hollywood didn't bring us the close-up action of the Bismark Sea in March 1942, when waves of U.S. aircraft straffed the wounded and starving survivors of a sunken Japanese destroyer for 3 days, despite the fact that they had little chance of survival as it was, being adrift in shark infested waters with little hope of rescue. Over 100,000 rounds were fired in this "clean-up" operation which was described as "brilliant and successful".

Steve Birdsall, an Australian, spent many months researching the book - and it shows. The story of the 5th Air Force - only one of seven U.S. Air Forces engaged in the war against Japan - could not possibly be told in any detail, even in a number of volumes of this size. So many units and sub units are mentioned in this story that one finds it next to impossible to keep track of them. The author makes it even more difficult by referring to them sometimes by their official title and sometimes by their nicknames. For instance the 380th Heavy Bomber Group was nicknamed the *Flying Circus*, the 498th Squadron were the *Falcons* and the 90th Bomb Group called themselves the *Jolly Rodgers*.

Their aircraft too, were named and lavishly decorated. Names like *Stingaroo, Porky II, Dirty Dora, St. Louis Blues*, and so on were all the rage. These names, while adding colour to the story, tend to make the reading a little confusing to those not familiar with the units and aircraft.

Nevertheless, the author has presented the story, ranging from the early months of 1942 right to the end of the war with Japan, in an interesting, readable book. He covers an enormous amount

of material, from top level strategy to individual action combining official historical accounts with the reminiscences of veterans.

Congressional Medal of Honour winners like Bong, McGuire and Zeamer are here as well as eccentrics and "characters".

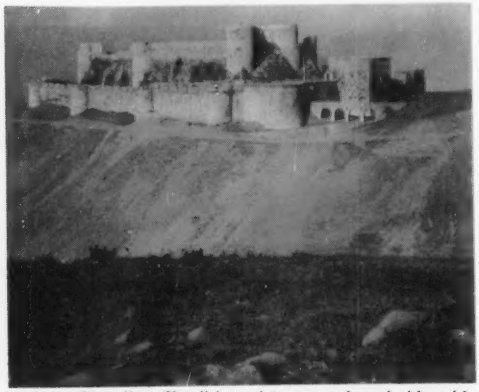
The book is lavishly illustrated with over two hundred black and white photographs of the men and aircraft of the 5th and some of the aircraft used by the 5th Air Force are beautifully illustrated in colour by John Preston.

The dust-cover of the book claims it is a "complete history of the Fifth Air Force", and indeed it is cram-packed with stories and incidents. I felt that the author tried to do too much to attempt to justify this claim and the book suffers somewhat because of it.

The men of the 5th Air Force, one gets the impression, were not real people who happened to be involved in a war but puppets with no real feelings or thoughts of their own. This, perhaps, is to be expected in a book that is, in essence about the incidents that took place and not about the people who caused the incidents.

The book fails as a history but presents part of the 5th Air Force's story in a readable and enjoyable form.

M. M.



Krak des Chevaliers (Kurdish castle), west and south sides with the two perimeter walls. Even the surroundings of the fortress made it extremely difficult for it to be taken by storm. When Baybars captured the castle from the Knights of St. John in 1271, his troops had to storm it tower by tower under heavy fire. Despite their courage they only succeeded because the fortress was undermanned. The water supply for the castle was a weak point. Within the walls, there were only cisterns which were filled by rainwater. Water was also brought from the hill close by (right foreground).

The Crusades: *Martin Erbstosser, David and Charles. £9.50. translated from the German.*

This lavishly produced book outlines the history of the Crusades, with clear accounts of the world of the period, the ideals of the knights, their outward journeys, and the battles and sieges in the Holy Land. The visible legacy of the Crusaders, in great castles, churches, ports, and in illuminated manuscripts and in the development of the sciences are discussed. The illustrations are excellent, altogether a fine read for anyone who has visited the Levant, or is just interested in the period.

THE ANATOMY OF THE ISRAELI ARMY. Gunther E. Rothenberg. Batsford. £6.95 nett.

Prof. Rothenberg served with the British Army in the last war and, subsequently, with the US Air Force. His book should be timely. Luttwak and Horowitz's splendid study, "The Israeli Army", was published in 1975. It contained a good chapter on the October War, but this was an addition. Developments since then include two Sinai Agreements, and the Sadat initiative. There has been much heart-searching in Israel. Some very high-level scandals have surfaced, including abuses in the Bar-Lev line contracts. Only 42 of the 1512 pages of the Agranat Commission's final report on the October War have been published, but there has been time for action on this report.

Timely or not, Prof. Rothenberg's book is disappointing. It compares poorly with "Israeli Army". He is a little unlucky. As this review is being written the Israeli press has announced that Gen. Tal has been recalled to push through his Ground Force reorganization proposals. Furthermore, Gen. Adan, whose "Ugda" (divisional task force) fought in the Canal Area right through the October War, has just published his memoirs of that war. So far, they are, alas, in Hebrew only. Gen. Eleazar's diaries, published in 1978, also seem to have been too recent for Prof. Rothenberg. Almost all of Rothenberg's sources are secondary; in many cases one turns to his notes and finds that the authority quoted is - Luttwak and Horowitz.

Many of the most important sources for the October War are in Hebrew or Arabic. While the better Hebrew ones may be translated sooner or later, the Arabic ones rarely appear in English. Heikal's special position makes him an exception. But an English translation of Gen. Magdoub's account, for instance, is still awaited.

As in most books on the October War, the Sinai maps are poor. The details of the Deversoir Crossing and the Chinese Farm Battle are obscure without a layout of the road net East of the Canal. The American maps, which most books seem to use, are deficient in this respect.

Prof. Rothenberg does not recapitulate the Luttwak/Horowitz analysis of Israel's 1973 doctrine on armour. He explains the decisions which have since been made. The Israeli Army has become more of an armoured force than ever. Despite "agreement that tanks on their own had become vulnerable" the concept of the "Queen of Battles" is rejected. Israel has not got "the manpower to flood the battlefield with infantry masses". "Forced . . . by its quantitative inferiority to wage a mobile offensive war" it can "look only to armoured forces to achieve victory by rapid penetration into enemy territory". **In effect this means that the infantry and artillery have both become supporting arms** - although there is more infantry with the armour than prior to 1973. (Letters of indignation, protest, etc., to IDF HQ, not to "An Cosantoir", please). "The tank bears the brunt of the assault and is the decisive weapon . . . all other arms are integrated into the (armoured) formation in order to support the tank and serve it by dismounted fighting, providing protection, breaching obstacles, giving fire cover and support".

Evidence for and against this concept littered the sandhills North-East of Chinese Farm, especially around the second line of strong points near the Missouri Ma'oz, and was to be seen in the outskirts of Ismailia.

Much of this doctrine shows Tal's influence. There is a lot to be said for cross-posting officers - provided they get down to the details of their new jobs. (Kesselring was a famous case in point). Tal came as a Colonel from infantry in the early '60's. He realised early on that successful armoured warfare required efficient maintenance, recovery and repair. He did not mistake the requirement for the fact. Luttwak/Horowitz pointed out that, apart from going "through all the armour training courses for command as well as the trade courses for gunners, loaders, drivers, fitters and radio operators" like all the officers transferred from the infantry, Tal "worked as a mechanic in the tank repair sheds so as to become familiar with every aspect of maintenance and repair". He then completely revised all training and maintenance, including the training and utilisation of maintenance and repair personnel. He firmly believed that there was a connection between formal discipline and good maintenance and took steps to ensure that both were established. Doubts have been raised about his ideas on mechanized infantry. There are none about the battle results of good gunnery, and his rapid recovery and repair system.

The IDF slipped somewhat between 1967 and 1973; the Egyptians and Syrians improved. The Agranat Commission's finding that there had been "poor discipline, but high combat morale" might have been considered complimentary by Israelis

(Continued on page 26)

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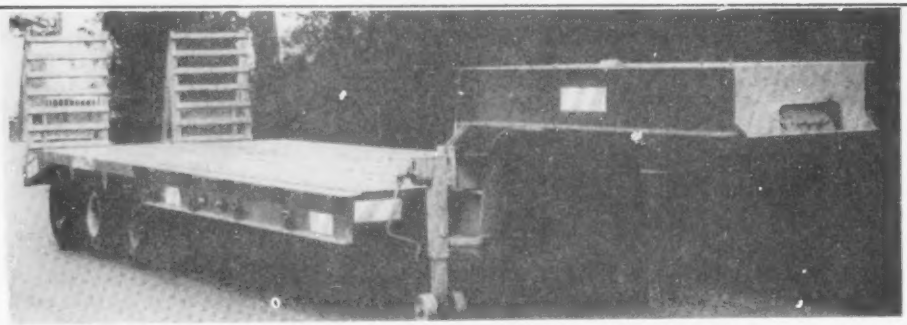

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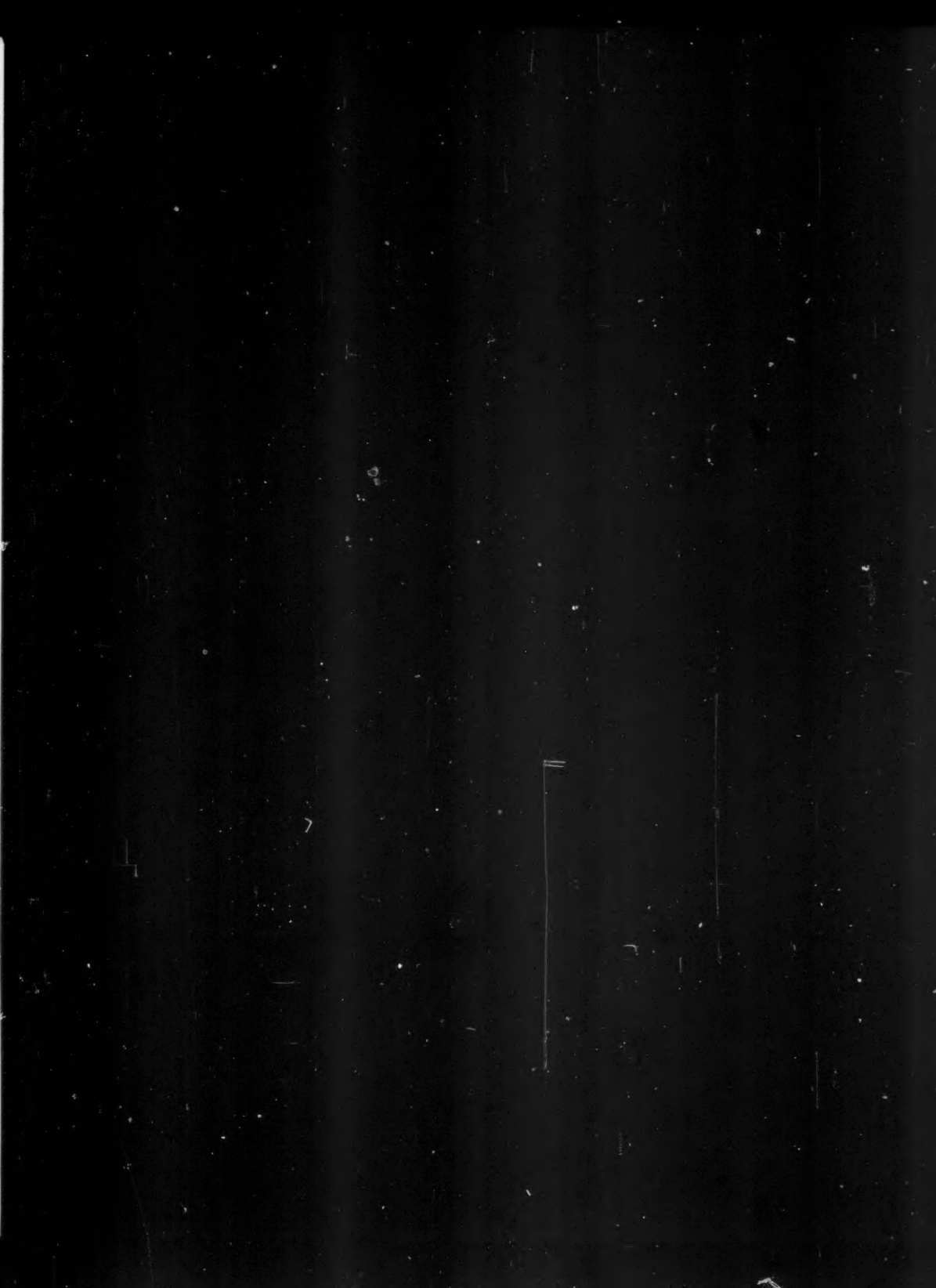
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